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## Environmental Management System

### Rix's Creek South

# ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Doc No: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan

Doc Owner: Environment Manager – Rix's Creek Pty Ltd

Approval: Group Environmental Manager – The Bloomfield Group

Signed: C Knight

Date: 03/07/2020

Revision	Issue Date	Description	Originator	Reviewed	Approved
Draft Version 1.0	03/07/2020	Original for SSD 6300	K Blaikie Hansen Bailey B Churcher OzArk	D Munro Hansen Bailey	C Knight

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## 1 Introduction

Rix's Creek Mine (RCM) is owned and operated by The Bloomfield Group (Bloomfield). RCM comprises the original Rix's Creek Mine, now known as Rix's Creek South (RCS) and the former Integra Open Cut Project Mine now known as Rix's Creek North (RCN). RCN was in care and maintenance when it was purchased by Bloomfield in 2015, and operations resumed in 2016. RCS has been in continuous operation by Bloomfield since project commencement in 1990.

RCM is located approximately 5 to 10 km north-west of Singleton both east and west of the New England Highway (NEH) (**Figure 1**).

This Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) has been developed to meet the requirements of RCS Development Consent SSD 6300 and relevant commitments from the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as defined in SSD 6300 which includes:

- *Rix's Creek Mine Continuation of Mining Project - Environmental Impact Statement* (AECOM, 2015);
- *Revised Response to Submissions* (AECOM, 2017);
- *Response to the Independent Planning Commission's* (AECOM, 2018); and
- The Applicant's additional information responses dated 4 February, 25 March, 2 April, 9 August, 20 August and 2 September 2019; and
- Statement of Commitments dated 5 March 2019.

This RCS ACHMP forms part of a series of Environmental Management Plans for RCM that together form the Environmental Management Strategy and describes the procedures for management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage for RCS only.

### 1.1 Background

Approved operations within RCS are shown on **Figure 2**.

Operations at RCS commenced in 1990. Mining has been completed in the original Pit 1 and Pit 2 areas on the east side of the New England Highway (NEH), which have been mostly backfilled and rehabilitated. RCS received approval for SSD 6300 on 12 October 2019 which allows expansion of the West Pit to the north away from Singleton.

RCS is approved under SSD 3600 until 12 October 2040 for the following operations:

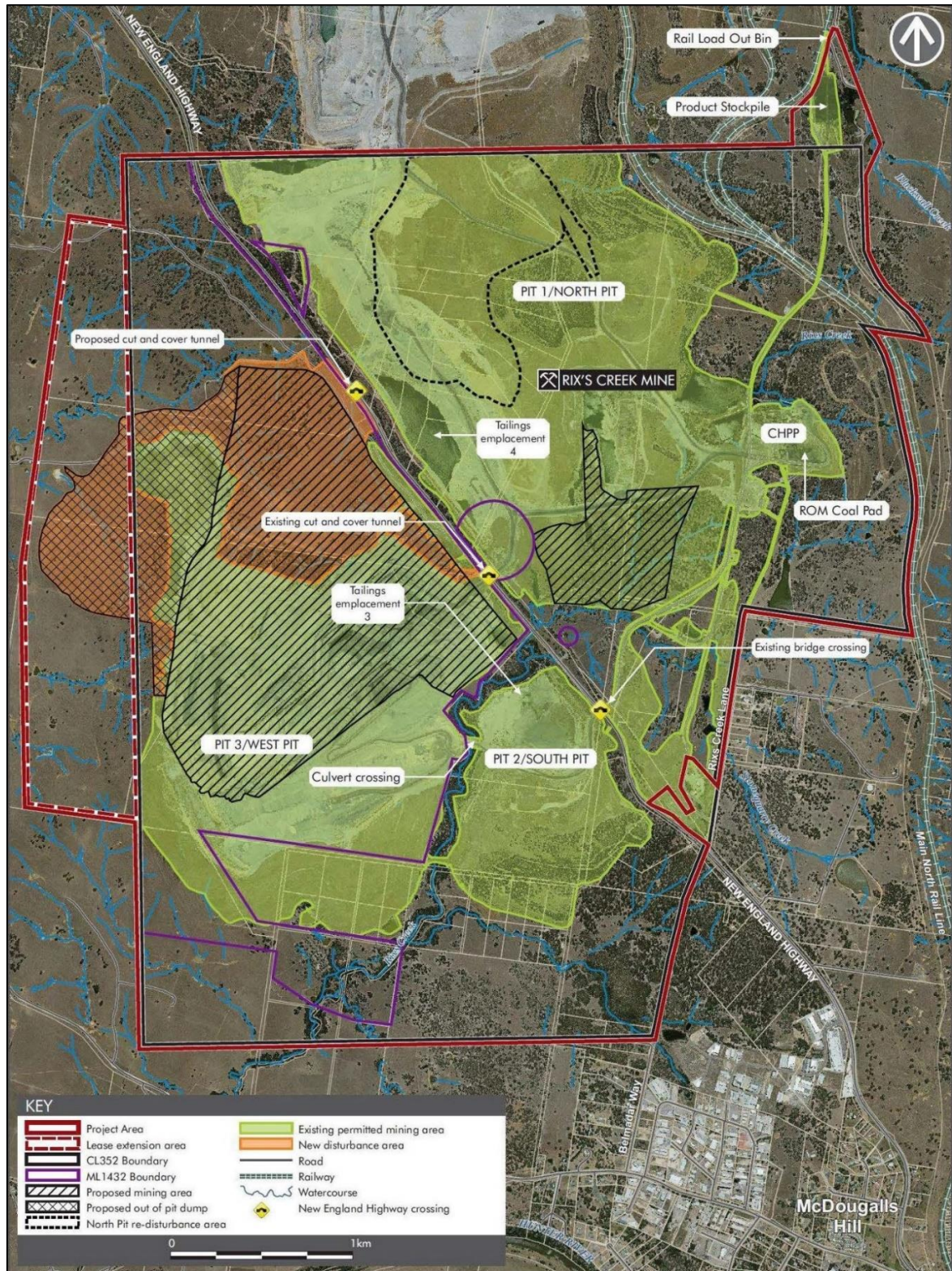
- West Pit (previously known as Pit 3) and associated OEAs;
- RCS CHPP;
- Train loading facility located on the RCN rail loop and clean coal stockpiles; and
- Associated maintenance and administration buildings.

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Figure 1  
Regional Locality

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Source: Appendix 2 of SSD 6300

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**Figure 2**  
**Conceptual Approved Rix's Creek South Mine**

**1.2 Local Setting**

RCS is located in the Hunter Valley region of New South Wales (NSW), northwest of Singleton and southeast of Camberwell (see **Figure 1**).

The area surrounding RCS comprises various open cut and underground coal mining operations, agricultural operations, industrial and commercial activities and a mix of rural residences and urban residential areas.

The majority of land to the north-west of RCS is owned by Mount Owen and Ashton mines.

**1.3 Purpose**

This ACHMP has been developed to ensure that Aboriginal Cultural Heritage within RCS is managed:

- In accordance with all relevant legislation;
- In consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), and
- To satisfy development consent requirements.

Non-Aboriginal cultural heritage is managed in a separate *Historic Heritage Management Plan* (Hansen Bailey, 2020).

**1.4 Document Structure**

The ACHMP is structured as follows:

- Section 2: Outlines the applicable statutory requirements;
- Section 3: Provides the Stakeholder consultation conducted;
- Section 4: Outlines the processes for management of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites external to the approved Disturbance Boundary;
- Section 5: Outlines the processes for management of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the approved Disturbance Boundary;
- Section 6: Details the Aboriginal Heritage Awareness Training;
- Section 7: Describes the management and reporting of incidents, complaints and non-compliances;
- Section 8: Discusses reporting and review of this ACHMP;
- Section 9: Provides a summary of responsibilities relevant to this ACHMP; and
- Section 10: Provides the references cited in this ACHMP.

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## 2 Statutory Requirements

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage within New South Wales is protected by various legislation including:

- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Commonwealth);
- *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (Commonwealth);
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act);
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act); and
- *Singleton Local Environmental Plan 2013*.

Aspects of relevant NSW legislation are discussed in more detail in **Section 2.1** and **Section 2.2**.

### 2.1 Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979

Section 4.41 of the EP&A Act lists the approvals that are not required for an approved State Significant Development (SSD) under Division 4.7 of Part 4. In this regard Section 4.41 provides that an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under Section 90 of the NPW Act is not required for any SSD that has been granted development consent.

Aboriginal heritage values within the RCS Project Boundary are to be managed in accordance with the conditions stipulated as part of SSD 6300 as described in **Section 2.1.1**.

**Figure 3** illustrates the Aboriginal sites within the Project Boundary and their location in relation to the New Disturbance Area and the Existing Permitted Mining Area. For the purposes of this plan, these two areas will be referred to in combination as the 'Disturbance Boundary'.

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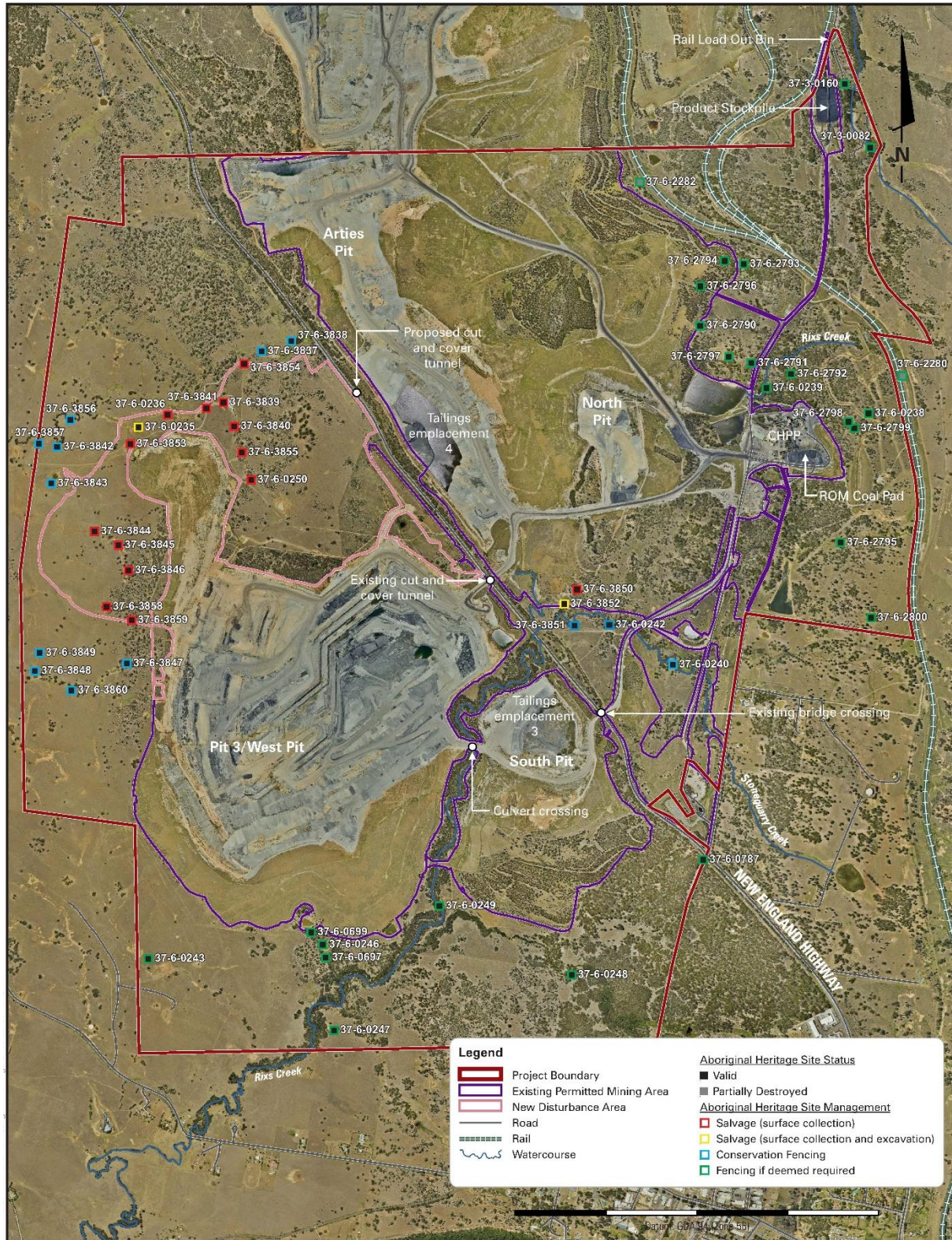


Figure 3  
Aboriginal Heritage Sites

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2.1.1 Development Consent Conditions

Table 1 details each SSD 6300 condition and where each is addressed within this ACHMP. Other relevant consent conditions are provided in Appendix A.

**Table 1**  
**Relevant SSD 6300 Development Consent Conditions**

SSD 6300	Condition	Section
<b>Protection of Aboriginal Heritage</b>		
Condition B52	The Applicant must ensure that the development does not cause any direct or indirect impact on any identified heritage items located outside the approved disturbance area, beyond those predicted in the document/s listed in condition A2(c). <i>Note: Identified heritage items are shown in the figure in Appendix 6.</i>	<b>4</b>
Condition B53	If suspected human remains are discovered on the site, then all work surrounding the area must cease, and the area must be secured. The Applicant must immediately notify NSW Police Force and BCD, and work must not recommence in the area until authorised by NSW Police Force and BCD.	<b>5.5</b>
Condition B54	If any previously unknown Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place is discovered on the site, or suspected to be on the site:	
	(a) all work in the immediate vicinity of the object or place must cease immediately;	<b>4.6</b>
	(b) a 10-metre buffer area around the object or place must be cordoned off; and	<b>4.6</b>
	(c) BCD must be contacted immediately.	<b>4.6</b>
Condition B55	Work in the immediate vicinity may only recommence if:	
	(a) the potential Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place is confirmed by BCD, in consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties, not to be an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal Place;	<b>4.6</b>
	(b) the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan is revised to include the Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place and appropriate measures in respect of it; or	<b>4.6</b>
	(c) the Planning Secretary is satisfied with the measures to be implemented in respect of the Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place and makes a written direction in that regard.	<b>4.6</b>
Condition B56	The Applicant must ensure that all known Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places on the site and within any offset areas are properly recorded, and those records are kept up to date, in the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) Register.	<b>4.1</b>

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SSD 6300	Condition	Section
	<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan</b>	
Condition B57	The Applicant must prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the development. The plan must:	
	(a) be prepared by suitably qualified and experienced persons;	<b>Revision Table</b>
	(b) be prepared in consultation with BCD and Registered Aboriginal Parties;	<b>Appendix C</b>
	(c) be submitted to the Planning Secretary for approval within six months of commencing development under this consent;	<b>Appendix D</b>
	(d) describe the measures to be implemented on the site to:	
	(i) comply with the heritage-related operating conditions of this consent;	<b>4</b>
	(ii) ensure all workers receive suitable Aboriginal cultural heritage inductions prior to carrying out any activities which may cause impacts to Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places, and that suitable records are kept of these inductions;	<b>6</b>
	(iii) protect, monitor and/or manage identified Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places (including archaeological investigations of potential subsurface objects and salvage of objects within the approved disturbance area (including disturbance associated with the cut and cover tunnel)) in accordance with the commitments made in the document/s listed in condition A2(c);	<b>4</b>
	(iv) protect Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places located outside the approved disturbance area from impacts of the development;	<b>4</b>
	(v) manage the discovery of suspected human remains and any new Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places, including provisions for burials, over the life of the development;	<b>5.5</b>
	(vi) maintain and manage reasonable access for relevant Aboriginal stakeholders to Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places (outside of the approved disturbance area);	<b>4.5</b>
	(vii) facilitate ongoing consultation and involvement of Registered Aboriginal Parties in the conservation and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage on the site; and	<b>3.3</b>
	(e) include a strategy for the care, control and storage of Aboriginal objects salvaged on the site, both during the life of the development and in the long term.	<b>5.4</b>

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SSD 6300	Condition	Section
B58	The Applicant must implement the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan approved by the Planning Secretary.	

### 2.1.2 EIS Statement of Commitments

Bloomfield outlined a number of commitments as part of the EIS Statement of Commitments. The commitments relevant to this ACHMP and the section of this ACHMP where these items are addressed are outlined in **Table 2**.

**Table 2**  
**EIS Statement of Commitments**

No.	Factor	Management and Mitigation Measures	Section
38	Aboriginal Heritage	An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) will be prepared consistent with any conditions of consent and include details of an archaeological excavation program for artefact scatter sites AHIMS #37-6-0235, Rix's Creek AS15 and Rix's Creek AS16.	<b>This document</b>

## 2.2 National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974

The NPW Act is administered by the Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) and is the primary legislation for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW. The NPW Act gives the Chief Executive of BCD responsibility for the proper care, preservation and protection of "Aboriginal objects" and "Aboriginal places", defined under the NPW Act as follows:

- An "*Aboriginal object*" is any deposit, object or material evidence (that is not a handicraft made for sale) relating to Aboriginal habitation of NSW, before or during the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction. The definition of "Aboriginal object" includes Aboriginal remains; and
- An "*Aboriginal place*" is a place declared so by the Minister administering the NPW Act because the place is or was of special significance to Aboriginal culture. It may or may not contain Aboriginal objects.

Part 6 of the NPW Act provides specific protection for Aboriginal objects and places by making it an offence to harm them, unless an AHIP has been approved, or the project is an approved State Significant Development (SSD) (**Section 2.1**). For the purposes of this ACHMP, Aboriginal objects and places will collectively be called "Aboriginal sites". All Aboriginal sites identified within the EIS will be managed in accordance with this ACHMP.

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## 2.3 Rix's Creek South Mining and Exploration Leases

Conditions from mining and exploration leases related to this ACHMP are presented in **Table 3**.

**Table 3**  
**Mining Lease 1432**

Condition	Condition Detail	Section
43	<p><b>ABORIGINAL PLACE OR RELIC</b> The lease holder shall not knowingly destroy, deface or damage and Aboriginal place or relic within the subject area except in accordance with an authority issued under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974, and shall take every precaution in drilling, excavating or disturbing the land against any such destruction, defacement or damage.</p>	<b>4</b>

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### 3 Stakeholder Consultation

#### 3.1 Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Condition B57 of SSD 6300 requires Bloomfield to submit the ACHMP to the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) for approval within six months of commencing development.

This ACHMP also includes all other regulatory and Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) correspondence and consultation as described in **Section 3.2** and **3.3**. The final ACHMP was submitted to DPIE for approval on 3 July 2020. A copy of regulatory correspondence is provided in **Appendix D**.

#### 3.2 Biodiversity and Conservation Division

The draft ACHMP was provided to BCD on 25 May 2020 for consultation and comment. In its response dated 26 June 2020, BCD made four recommendations. These recommendations and where they have been addressed are provided in **Table 4**.

**Table 4**  
**BCD Recommendations**

No.	Recommendation	Section
1	Aboriginal community consultation should be undertaken for the project and supporting documentary evidence provided in accordance with the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents</i> (DECCW 2010).	<b>3.3</b> <b>Appendix B</b>
2	The ACHMP should be updated to include identifying details and site status of all Aboriginal sites recorded within the Project Boundary.	<b>Appendix F</b>
3	BCD recommends that salvage reports, documenting activities relating to harm of Aboriginal objects, undertaken for the project, are submitted to BCD.	<b>5.1</b> <b>5.2</b>
4	The Rix's Creek South ACHMP should be updated to clearly identify the location and site coordinates of the secure, lockable facility used as a Temporary Keeping Place. The identifying details should be provided to BCD. Any access to the locked storage facility is the responsibility of the Rix's Creek South Operations Management.	<b>5.4</b>

The draft methodology for the salvage and excavation of the artefact scatter sites Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) #37-6-0235, Rix's Creek AS15 and Rix's Creek AS16 was provided to the BCD for consultation as part of this ACHMP on 25 May 2020. No comments specific to the salvage plan were received.

A copy of the consultation with BCD, in accordance with Condition B57 is provided in **Appendix C**.

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### 3.3 Registered Aboriginal Party Consultation

#### 3.3.1 EIS consultation

As part of the 'Aboriginal Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment' (AECOM, 2014) (AACHIA) stakeholders who hold Aboriginal cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of the Rix's Creek Continuation of Mining Project (the Project) were identified, notified of the Project and involved in consultation and fieldwork.

AECOM undertook all consultation in accordance with the OEH *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (Consultation Guidelines). This consultation is summarised in **Appendix B**.

28 parties registered interest in the Project and requested that they be involved in fieldwork and ongoing consultation. These RAPs are listed in **Table 5**.

Requests for registration were also received from two RAPs, Kawul Cultural Services (16 June 2014) and Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation (20 June 2014) after the closing date for registration and after fieldwork had already been completed. Kawul Cultural Services and Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation were registered for comment and feedback and kept informed about RCS following receipt of their email request. These additional two RAPs are also included in **Table 5**.

**Table 5**  
**Registered Aboriginal Parties**

Reference	Group Name
1	A1 Indigenous Services
2	AGA Services
3	Aliera French Trading
4	Amanda Hickey Cultural Services
5	Cacatua General Services
6	Crimson-Rosie
7	Culturally Aware
8	DFTV Enterprises
9	Divine Diggers A. C. C.
10	Gidawaa Walang Cultural Heritage Consultancy
11	Gomeroi Namoi

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Reference	Group Name
12	HECMO Consultants
13	Hunters & Collectors
14	JLC Cultural Services
15	Kauwul Wonn1 Contracting
16	Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated
17	Lower Hunter Wonnarua Cultural Services
18	Michele Saunders
19	Smith Dhaagans
20	Tocomwall Pty Ltd
21	Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation
22	Ungooroo Cultural and Community Service
23	Wallangan Cultural Services
24	Wanaruah Custodians Aboriginal Corporation
25	Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council
26	Wattaka Wonnarua Cultural Consultancy Services
27	Widescope Indigenous Group
28	Yinarr Cultural Services
29*	Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation
30*	Kawul Cultural Services

\*Requests for registration were also received from two RAPs, Kawul Cultural Services and Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation after the closing date for registration. These parties are registered for comment and feedback and kept informed about the project following receipt of their email request.

### 3.3.2 Management Plan Consultation

The draft ACHMP was distributed to all RAPs listed in **Table 5** and the Wonnarua National Aboriginal Corporation on 1 June 2020 in accordance with the Consultation Guidelines. A hard copy of the draft ACHMP was mailed to all RAPs, with a pdf version also emailed.

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Six responses were received and are provided in **Appendix D** and summarised in **Table D1**. Four responses supported the ACHMP, one response queried consultation on the Project and one response raised seven points in regards to the ACHMP.

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## 4 Management of Aboriginal Sites External to the Disturbance Boundary

The AACHIA identified 24 previously unregistered Aboriginal archaeological sites within the Project Boundary during the field survey assessment.

11 of these sites are located outside the Disturbance Boundary and will not be impacted.

In addition, 26 sites were identified through an AHIMS search as being within the Project Boundary and outside the Disturbance Boundary. All Aboriginal sites are identified on **Figure 3**.

A site verification program undertaken for this ACHMP has noted a number of anomalies with sites at RCS between AHIMS locations and those recorded in reports and site cards. The actions identified in **Appendix E** will be undertaken to ensure that the data record is as accurate as possible. All figures in the ACHMP show the correct site locations.

Conditions B52 to B56 of SSD 6300 requires Bloomfield to manage Aboriginal sites both within and external to the Disturbance Boundary. This section describes the management measures to be applied to sites which are not proposed to be impacted by RCS (see **Appendix F** for the sites, type and management method). **Figure 3** illustrates the proposed management of Aboriginal heritage sites external to the Disturbance Boundary as being conservation.

All known Aboriginal heritage sites located external to the Disturbance Boundary will be managed as described in this section.

### 4.1 Aboriginal Sites Database

Bloomfield will update the existing database of known Aboriginal sites within the Project Boundary. The database will record the location in MGA coordinates, name, type, detailed description and status of sites. The database will kept up-to-date and be managed to:

- Include any previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites that have not been salvaged;
- Include protected sites on all relevant mine plans;
- Advise relevant staff and contractors of the nature, location and legal obligations related to the sites when working in proximity to them through the 'Permit to Disturb' process (see **Section 4.2**); and
- Provide information to relevant personnel, contractors and RAPs where necessary to ensure sites are managed and cared for appropriately.

This database will be regularly updated throughout the operational life of RCM.

The list of Aboriginal Heritage sites within the Project Boundary are listed in **Appendix F**.

### 4.2 Permit to Disturb

All proposed disturbance works are managed through Bloomfield's 'Permit to Disturb' process. When a request for a Permit is made to the Environment Team, a search is made of the GIS database to identify any Aboriginal sites within or in close proximity (200m) of the proposed disturbance footprint.

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Where the search identifies sites in close proximity to the footprint, these sites will be clearly marked on a figure to be provided with the Permit to Disturb and management and mitigation instructions provided in accordance with approvals. Where necessary, the sites will also be identified on the ground prior to works commencing.

### 4.3 Protective Fencing

The fencing requirements for each site will be undertaken in accordance with **Figure 3** and **Table 6** with the desired outcome being the long-term preservation of the sites. Where stock grazing poses a potential risk to a site, permanent stock-proof fencing and appropriate associated signage is required. Previously recorded AHIMS sites to the south and east of RCS will only be fenced if they are within 200 m of approved mining activities as identified in **Figure 3**.

Site fencing will be erected after consultation with a qualified archaeologist and RAP representatives. Signage will be used on all fenced sites within 200m of approved mining activities and generally state:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

NO UNAUTHORISED ENTRY

Fencing will be completed prior to the commencement of mining disturbance activities associated with SSD 6300 in the general area.

Fencing may be omitted or removed if it brings undesired attention to the site from vandals or otherwise increases risk of damage to the site in consultation with RAPs. If fencing is omitted or removed, other management options to protect the site will be considered on a case by case basis in consultation with RAPs.

All fencing and signage will be removed from Aboriginal site on completion of mining operations.

**Table 6**  
**Aboriginal Heritage Sites to be Fenced**

AHIMS #	Site Name	Type	Management
37-6-3851	Rixs Creek AS15	Artefact Scatter	Fencing
37-6-3838	Rixs Creek AS2	Artefact Scatter	Fencing
37-6-3837	Rixs Creek AS1	Artefact Scatter	Fencing
37-6-3856	Rixs Creek IA4	Isolated Artefact	Fencing
37-6-3857	Rixs Creek IA5	Isolated Artefact	Fencing
37-6-3842	Rixs Creek AS6	Artefact Scatter	Fencing
37-6-3843	Rixs Creek AS7	Artefact Scatter	Fencing
37-6-3849	Rixs Creek AS13	Artefact Scatter	Fencing
37-6-3848	Rixs Creek AS12	Artefact Scatter	Fencing

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AHIMS #	Site Name	Type	Management
37-6-3860	Rixs Creek IA8	Isolated Artefact	Fencing
37-6-3847	Rixs Creek AS11	Artefact Scatter	Fencing

#### 4.4 Monitoring

Sites that have been protected by fencing within the Project Boundary (see **Figure 3**) will be monitored each two years to ensure the fencing is intact and no disturbance has occurred within or adjacent to the site. The results of the monitoring will be reported in the Annual Review as described in **Section 8**.

#### 4.5 Access to Aboriginal Sites

Under Condition B57 of SSD 6300, Bloomfield must:

*“...maintain and manage reasonable access for relevant Aboriginal stakeholders to Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places (outside of the approved disturbance area) ...”*

The Project Boundary generally constitutes an active mining area and as such is subject to coal mining, occupational health and safety and other legislation and regulation, as well as Bloomfield procedures regarding access and health and safety requirements.

Reasonable access to these areas will be available to RAPs conditional upon satisfying relevant Health and Safety regulatory requirements and Bloomfield access protocols, and the following conditions:

- Completion of visitor and area-specific inductions or other formal requirements as may be introduced from time to time; and
- The visit to the Aboriginal sites will be escorted by Bloomfield personnel and undertaken in mine compliant vehicles provided by Bloomfield.

Requests for permission to access the sites must be made in writing at least 10 business days in advance of the proposed date of the visit, unless previously agreed by Bloomfield.

Access to some areas would be restricted during periods of construction, exploration or general mining activities or unfavourable weather conditions.

Bloomfield will provide a formal response to the application which may include the reasons for that decision and any conditions that will apply to the visit.

#### 4.6 Management of Previously Unrecorded Finds

Any new sites discovered within the Project Boundary but external to the Disturbance Boundary will be managed under this ACHMP.

In the event that previously unidentified Aboriginal objects are identified external to the Disturbance Boundary, the following will occur immediately:

- Investigation and Reporting:

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- All work in the immediate vicinity of the site will cease;
- The find will be reported to the relevant supervisor who will notify the Open Cut Examiner (OCE) and the Environmental Manager will be notified;
- Advice will be sought from an Archaeologist as to whether the find is an Aboriginal object;
- If the find is identified as an Aboriginal object, the Environmental Manager will notify BCD immediately as required by Condition B54(c) of SSD 6300 and Section 89A of the NPW Act;
- Advice will be sought from a qualified Archaeologist as to management of the find. No works will re-commence in the area until the find has been appropriately assessed; and
- A 10 m buffer area will be cordoned off by temporary fencing;
- Investigation confirms Aboriginal site:
  - An assessment of scientific significance will be developed by the Archaeologist and the site will be managed under the terms of this ACHMP. The site will be managed as detailed in **Section 4**. Sites that are located outside of the Disturbance Boundary will not be impacted without an approved AHIP.
  - RAPs will be contacted within two working days of the find being determined to be an Aboriginal site; and
  - An BCD AHIMS site card will be completed and submitted to BCD for any newly identified Aboriginal site.

As specified under Condition B55 of SSD 6300, work in the immediate vicinity may recommence if:

- The potential Aboriginal site is confirmed not to be an Aboriginal site by BCD, in consultation with the RAPs, or
- If the site is confirmed to be an Aboriginal site, either:
  - This ACHMP is revised to include the Aboriginal site and the recommended management measures; or
  - DPIE is satisfied with the measures to be implemented in respect of the Aboriginal site and makes a written direction in that regard.

#### 4.7 Management of Potential Human Remains

Should human remains be discovered in the Project Boundary, the procedure in **Section 5.5** will be followed.

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## 5 Management of Aboriginal Sites within Disturbance Boundary

This section describes the management measures to be applied to Aboriginal sites which will be impacted by RCS's activities within the Disturbance Boundary, as required by Conditions B52 to B56 of SSD 6300.

The AACHIA identified twenty-four (24) previously unregistered Aboriginal archaeological sites within the Project Boundary during the field survey assessment. Thirteen (13) of these sites are located within the Disturbance Boundary. Three additional sites were identified through an AHIMS search as being within the Disturbance Boundary. These Aboriginal sites, their type and management method are identified on **Figure 3** and in **Table 7** and **Appendix F**.

**Figure 3** illustrates the proposed management of Aboriginal heritage sites within the Disturbance Boundary as follows:

- Salvage (surface collection); and
- Salvage (excavation and surface collection).

The sections below describe management within the Disturbance Boundary.

All sites will be managed in accordance with the procedures described in **Section 4** until the works described in this section have been completed.

**Table 7**  
**Aboriginal Heritage Sites to be Salvaged**

AHIMS #	Site Name	Type	Management
37-6-0235	Rixs Creek Granbolong (Open Site No. 1 in Brayshaw, 1982b:13)	Artefact Scatter	Surface collection and excavation
37-6-0236	Rixs Creek Granbolong (Open Site No. 2 in Brayshaw, 1982b:13)	Artefact Scatter	Surface collection
37-6-0250	Rixs Creek (Open Site No. 16 in Brayshaw, 1982b:13)	Artefact Scatter	Surface collection
37-6-3839	Rixs Creek AS3	Isolated Artefact	Surface collection
37-6-3840	Rixs Creek AS4	Isolated Artefact	Surface collection
37-6-3841	Rixs Creek AS5	Artefact Scatter	Surface collection
37-6-3844	Rixs Creek AS8	Artefact Scatter	Surface collection
37-6-3845	Rixs Creek AS9	Artefact Scatter	Surface collection
37-6-3846	Rixs Creek AS10	Artefact Scatter	Surface collection
37-6-3850	Rixs Creek AS14	Artefact Scatter	Surface collection

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AHIMS #	Site Name	Type	Management
37-6-3852	Rixs Creek AS16	Artefact Scatter	Surface collection and excavation
37-6-5853	Rixs Creek IA1	Isolated Artefact	Surface collection
37-6-3854	Rixs Creek IA2	Isolated Artefact	Surface collection
37-6-3855	Rixs Creek IA3	Isolated Artefact	Surface collection
37-6-3858	Rixs Creek IA6	Isolated Artefact	Surface collection
37-6-3859	Rixs Creek IA7	Isolated Artefact	Surface collection

### 5.1 Salvage Program (Surface Collection)

All Aboriginal sites within the Disturbance Boundary (see **Table 7**) will be subject to surface collection by rostered RAPs accompanied by an archaeologist. Surface collection will be undertaken prior to commencement of activities that may impact the sites according to the following procedure (RCN HMP):

- Individual artefacts will be flagged;
- The locations of flagged artefacts will be recorded in a database;
- Flagged artefacts will be numbered and collected into a bag labelled with site number, date and collection details;
- Artefacts will be retained for recording and report preparation;
- Basic attributes will be recorded on collected artefacts: raw material, artefact type, artefact material, artefact integrity, maximum dimension and stage of reduction; and
- A descriptive report will be prepared with map of individual artefact locations within site or exposure boundaries.

Following site collection, the field archaeologist will submit an Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Form and provide written notification of the sites being cleared. Ground disturbance works in these areas for RCS activities will not occur until this notification has been provided to the AHIMS registrar and been provided to Bloomfield. All recovered artefacts will be managed as outlined in **Section 5.4**.

The ACHMP will be updated to reflect the completed salvage, and the salvage reports will be provided to BCD.

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## 5.2 Salvage (Excavation and Salvage) Program

Consistent with Appendix 6 of SSD 6300, archaeological excavations will be undertaken adjacent to artefact scatter sites AHIMS #37-6-0235 (Rix's Creek Granbolong adjacent to Dead Man's Gully) and AHIMS #37-6-3852 (Rix's Creek AS16 adjacent to Rix's Creek)) as shown on **Figure 3**.

Statement of Commitment (SOC) 38 identifies Rix's Creek AS15 (AHIMS# 37-6-3851) as requiring salvage and excavation (which was incorrect). This site is located outside the Disturbance Area and as such will not be disturbed by RCS (**Figure 3**). This site will be fenced as described in **Section 4.3**.

Archaeological excavations at these sites will involve at least test excavations. Should the subsurface investigations reveal that it would be required, a relevant geomorphological assessment of these sites will also be undertaken for the purposes of characterising and describing exposed soils and profiles, elucidating localised landform histories and defining, where appropriate, the extent and location of ground disturbance. Assessments will be carried out by a qualified geomorphologist (AECOM, 2015).

The salvage methodology was developed by OzArk in consultation with BCD. The salvage program is presented in detail in **Appendix G**.

The ACHMP will be updated to reflect the completed salvage, and the salvage report/s will be provided to BCD.

## 5.3 Management of Previously Unrecorded Finds

This section applies to Aboriginal heritage sites identified following the completion of the salvage program identified in **Section 4.6**.

As required by Condition B54 of SSD 6300, any new sites discovered within the Project Boundary will be managed under this ACHMP. In the event that previously unidentified Aboriginal objects are identified during operations, the following will occur immediately:

- Investigation and Reporting:
  - All work in the immediate vicinity of the site will cease;
  - The find will be reported to the relevant supervisor who will notify the Open Cut Examiner (OCE) and the Environmental Manager will be notified;
  - Advice will be sought from an Archaeologist as to whether the find is an Aboriginal object;
  - If the find is identified as an Aboriginal object, the Environmental Manager will notify BCD immediately as required by Condition B54(c) of SSD 6300 and Section 89A of the NPW Act;
  - Advice will be sought from a qualified Archaeologist as to management of the find. No works will re-commence in the area until the find has been appropriately assessed; and
  - A 10 m buffer area will be cordoned off by temporary fencing;
- Investigation confirms Aboriginal site:
  - An assessment of scientific significance will be developed by an Archaeologist and the site will be managed under the terms of this ACHMP; and

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- The site will be salvaged as detailed in **Section 5.1** and **5.2**. If impact to a newly recorded site is likely, it will be appropriately salvaged, under the terms of this ACHMP (i.e. an AHIP will not be required to be applied for);
- RAPs will be contacted within two working days of the find being determined to be an Aboriginal site;
- A BCD AHIMS site card will be completed and submitted to BCD for any newly identified Aboriginal site;
- Sites assessed as having low scientific values will be managed by undertaking a collection of surface artefacts (**Section 5.1**) in consultation with RAPs. Any site deemed to have a higher scientific value classification will be managed on an individual basis in consultation with RAPs. If impact to a newly recorded site is likely, it will be appropriately salvaged, under the terms of this ACHMP (i.e. an AHIP will not be required to be applied for); and
- If the investigation confirms not an Aboriginal site, works can re-commence within the buffer area.

As specified under Condition B55 of SSD 6300, work in the immediate vicinity may recommence if:

- The potential Aboriginal site is confirmed not to be an Aboriginal site by BCD, in consultation with the RAPs, or
- If the site is confirmed to be an Aboriginal site, either:
  - This ACHMP is revised to include the Aboriginal site and the recommended management measures; or
  - DPIE is satisfied with the measures to be implemented in respect of the Aboriginal site and makes a written direction in that regard.

## 5.4 Storage of Aboriginal Objects

Following completion of the salvage, Bloomfield will store all recovered artefacts in a secure facility located at Rix's Creek North (at Easting 325979 Northing 6404543). This site will be accessible by Aboriginal community members as described in **Section 4.5**.

## 5.5 Management of Potential Human Remains

Conditions B53 and B57(v) of SSD 6300 require Bloomfield to manage any suspected human remains. This section outlines the procedures to be undertaken in the case that known or possible human skeletal material (remains) are discovered during development. The procedures consider the following documents:

- *Manual for the Identification of Aboriginal Remains* (NSW Department of Environment & Conservation, 2006);
- *Skeletal Remains – Guidelines for the management of human skeletal remains under the Heritage Act 1977* (NSW Heritage Office, 1998); and
- *The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Standards and Guidelines Kit* (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 1997).

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In the event human remains are suspected or discovered, the following procedure will immediately occur:

- All work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will cease;
- The find will be reported to the relevant supervisor immediately who will notify the Open Cut Examiner (OCE) and Environmental Manager;
- The Environmental Manager will notify NSW Police;
- A 20 m buffer (or as advised by the NSW Police) around the known or suspected human remains will be established using temporary fencing. Works can continue outside of this area providing there is no risk of interference to the human remains or the assessment of human remains;
- A physical or forensic anthropologist will be commissioned by the Police to inspect the remains in situ (organised by the police unless otherwise directed by the police), and make a determination of antiquity (pre-contact, historic or modern) and ancestry (Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal) and:
  - If the remains are identified as modern the area is deemed as crime scene and will be managed by NSW Police. Work will only recommence when NSW Police advise;
  - If the remains are identified as historic and non-Aboriginal, the site is to be secured and Heritage NSW notified, and the site managed in liaison with Heritage NSW. Work will only recommence when Heritage NSW advise;
  - If the remains are identified as Aboriginal (pre-contact or historic), the site is to be secured and BCD notified, and the site managed in liaison with BCD. Work will only recommence when BCD advise;
- If the remains are identified as Aboriginal, all RAPs will be notified within two business days and in writing, and consultative arrangements will be made to discuss further action; and
- If the remains are found to not be human, work in the area can recommence.

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## 6 Aboriginal Heritage Awareness Training

As required by Condition B57(ii) of SSD 6300, Bloomfield will ensure that relevant mining personnel, contractors and subcontractors are provided with Aboriginal Heritage Awareness Training. The intent of the training is to provide a general awareness and understanding of Aboriginal culture and heritage, and their role in protecting Aboriginal sites at RCS.

The induction and regular refresher training program will be relevant to each trainee's job description but will generally include:

- Summary of how Aboriginal sites are legally protected in NSW;
- Why Aboriginal sites are protected, the significance to the Aboriginal community and the wider community;
- What constitutes an Aboriginal site, examples of artefacts and other items;
- Known conserved sites within the Project Boundary;
- Obligations to:
  - Protect sites through the Permit to Disturb (see **Section 4.2**) and Work Authorisation processes;
  - Report any suspected finds;
  - Prevent harm (as defined in Section 5 of the NPW Act) to sites;
  - What constitutes harm including moving or collecting artefacts; disturbing the earth where artefacts are located; breaking artefacts e.g. by running over them in a vehicle; damage to known or suspected scarred trees; and
  - Reporting mechanism for any potential harm to Aboriginal sites.

Bloomfield will maintain records of all personnel and contractors who have completed the Aboriginal heritage training.

## 7 Non-compliance and Complaints Management

Condition E4 of SSD 6300 requires Bloomfield to have a protocol for managing and reporting any incidents or non-compliances, complaints or failure to comply with other statutory requirements.

Non-compliance reporting will occur as described in the Environmental Management Strategy (Hansen Bailey, 2020).

Complaints management will occur as described in the Environmental Management Strategy (Hansen Bailey, 2020).

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## 8 Reporting and Review

Bloomfield will prepare an Annual Review as required by Condition E9 of SSD6300 which shall include a discussion on Aboriginal Cultural heritage.

As required by Condition E5 of SSD 6300 this ACHMP will be reviewed by Bloomfield within three months of:

- The submission of an Aboriginal cultural heritage related incident reported to the Department or any other relevant agencies;
- The submission of an Annual Review;
- The submission of an Independent Environmental Audit; or
- The modification of the conditions of this consent (unless the conditions require otherwise).

Where reviews identify that an update to this ACHMP is required, the regular update will to incorporate any recommended measures to improve the environmental performance at RCS and to ensure that all management policies are being adhered to and are working effectively. Reviews will also provide an opportunity to make modifications to existing policies and to add new policies, where appropriate.

Where revisions are required, the revised document will be submitted to the Planning Secretary for approval within six weeks of the review.

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## 9 Roles and Responsibilities

Specific roles and responsibilities for the implementation of this ACHMP and associated actions are presented in **Table 8**.

**Table 8**  
**Roles and Responsibilities**

Role	Responsibilities	Section
<b>Mine Manager</b>	Provide adequate resources to ensure the implementation of this ACHMP	<b>This document</b>
<b>Environmental Manager or Delegate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notify BCD and NSW Police when required.</li> <li>Sound understanding of Aboriginal heritage legislation (NPW Act) and the legislative process;</li> <li>Coordinate consultation with relevant regulatory bodies in relation to this ACHMP;</li> <li>Coordinate consultation with registered Aboriginal parties to provide expertise and undertake works as required;</li> <li>Maintain records of Aboriginal consultation;</li> <li>Ensure the implementation of this ACHMP;</li> <li>Engage a suitable qualified Archaeologist to provide expertise and undertake works as required;</li> <li>Manage the 'Permit to Disturb' process;</li> <li>Arrange agreed access to Aboriginal sites;</li> <li>Ensure salvaged artefacts are stored appropriately;</li> <li>Ensure inclusion of Aboriginal heritage in Company inductions process;</li> <li>Report incidents and non-compliances;</li> <li>Complete reporting and provide public information;</li> <li>Ensure this ACHMP is reviewed and updated as necessary;</li> <li>Ensure this ACHMP is in accordance with relevant operational conditions;</li> </ul>	<p><b>5.5</b></p> <p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>3.1, 3.2</b></p> <p><b>3.3</b></p> <p><b>3.3</b></p> <p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>5.3</b></p> <p><b>4.2</b></p> <p><b>4.5</b></p> <p><b>5.4</b></p> <p><b>5.3</b></p> <p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>8</b></p>
<b>Environmental Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist the Environmental Manager as required in implementation of this Plan.</li> </ul>	

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Role	Responsibilities	Section
OCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notify Mining Manager and Environment Manager immediately of any suspected Aboriginal sites or human remains</li> </ul>	5.3, 5.5
All personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake all activities in accordance with this plan as communicated through Company induction; and</li> <li>Report all potential and actual Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and/or incidents associated with their activities immediately.</li> </ul>	6 5.3, 5.5, 7

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## 10 References

- AECOM (2014), *Rixs Creek Continuation of Mining Project Aboriginal Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment*
- AECOM (2015), *Environmental Impact Statement Rix's Creek Mine – Continuation of Mining Project*
- Bloomfield (2016), *Heritage Management Plan Rixs Creek North*
- NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (2010b), *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects 2010*
- NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (2010a), *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*
- NSW Department of Environment and Conservation (2006), *Manual for the Identification of Aboriginal Remains*
- NSW Heritage Office (1998), *Skeletal Remains – Guidelines for the management of human skeletal remains under the Heritage Act 1977*
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (1997), *The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Standards and Guidelines Kit.*

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# Appendix A – Development Consent Commitments

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SSD 6300	Condition	Section
<b>Condition E4</b>	<b>Management Plan Requirements</b> Management plans required under this consent must be prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines, and include where relevant:	
	(a) summary of relevant background or baseline data;	<b>4</b>
	(b) details of:	
	(i) the relevant statutory requirements (including any relevant approval, licence or lease conditions);	<b>2</b>
	(ii) any relevant limits or performance measures and criteria; and	<b>2</b>
	(iii) the specific performance indicators that are proposed to be used to judge the performance of, or guide the implementation of, the development or any management measures;	
	(c) any relevant commitments or recommendations identified in the document/s listed in condition A2(c);	<b>2</b>
	(d) a description of the measures to be implemented to comply with the relevant statutory requirements, limits, or performance measures and criteria;	<b>4</b>
	(e) a program to monitor and report on the:	
	(i) impacts and environmental performance of the development; and	<b>8</b>
	(ii) effectiveness of the management measures set out pursuant to paragraph (d);	<b>8</b>
	(f) a contingency plan to manage any unpredicted impacts and their consequences and to ensure that ongoing impacts reduce to levels below relevant impact assessment criteria as quickly as possible;	<b>5.3, 5.5</b>
	(g) a program to investigate and implement ways to improve the environmental performance of the development over time;	<b>8</b>
	(h) a protocol for managing and reporting any:	
	(i) incident, non-compliance or exceedance of any impact assessment criterion or performance measure;	<b>7</b>
	(ii) complaint; or	<b>7</b>

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SSD 6300	Condition	Section
	(iii) failure to comply with other statutory requirements;	7
	(i) public sources of information and data to assist stakeholders in understanding environmental impacts of the development; and	8
	(j) a protocol for periodic review of the plan.	8
	<i>Note: The Planning Secretary may waive some of these requirements if they are unnecessary or unwarranted for particular management plans.</i>	
<b>Condition E5</b>	<p><b>Revision of Strategies, Plans and Programs</b> Within three months of:</p> <p>(a) the submission of an incident report under condition E7;</p> <p>(b) the submission of an Annual Review under condition E9;</p> <p>(c) the submission of an Independent Environmental Audit under condition E10; or</p> <p>(d) the modification of the conditions of this consent (unless the conditions require otherwise),</p> <p>the suitability of existing strategies, plans and programs required under this consent must be reviewed by the Applicant.</p>	8
<b>Condition E6</b>	If necessary, to either improve the environmental performance of the development or cater for a modification, the strategies, plans and programs required under this consent must be revised, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. Where revisions are required, the revised document must be submitted to the Planning Secretary for approval within six weeks of the review.	8
	<i>Note: This is to ensure strategies, plans and programs are updated on a regular basis and to incorporate any recommended measures to improve the environmental performance of the development.</i>	

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## Appendix B: Evidence of Consultation

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**B1 EIS Consultation**

**Stage 1 – Notification and Registration**

In accordance with Section 4 of the OEH *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, 2010) to identify, notify and register Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance the Project, the following organisations were notified of the Project in writing on 6 March 2014:

1. Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)
2. Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations
3. National Native Title Tribunal
4. Native Title Services Corporation Limited (NTSCorp Ltd)
5. Greater Sydney Local Land Services (formerly Catchment Management Authorities (CMA))
6. Singleton Shire Local Council; and
7. Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council.

An advertisement was also published in the Singleton Argus 11 March 2014. The Singleton Argus was identified by News Local and the Guide to Australian Newspapers as delivered to Singleton and surrounding suburbs, including Branxton and Greta.

76 groups were identified as potential registrants based on the contact details provided from the agency requests (**Table B1**). A letter inviting registration was sent out to all potential registrants on 11 April 2014 along with the proposed methodology for comment and feedback.

**Table B1  
List of Potential Registrants**

1. Aboriginal Native Title Elders Consultants	2. Alieria French Trading
3. Alison Sampson	4. Black Creek Aboriginal Corporation
5. Bullen Bullen	6. Cacatua Culture Consultants
7. Carrawonga Consultants	8. Culturally Aware
9. D F TV Enterprises	10. Deslee Talbott Consultants
11. Devine Diggers Aboriginal Cultural Consultants	12. DRM Cultural Management
13. Esther Tighe	14. Gidawaa Walang & Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre Inc.
15. Giwiirr Consultants,	16. Griffiths Group
17. HECMO Consultants	18. Hielamon Cultural Consultants

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19. HSB Heritage Consultants	20. Hunter Traditional Owner, Paulette Ryan
21. Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation	22. Hunter Valley Cultural Consultants
23. Hunter Valley Cultural Surveying	24. Hunter Valley Natural & Cultural Resources
25. Hunters & Collectors	26. I & E Aboriginal Culture and Heritage
27. Jarban + Mugrebea	28. Jeff Matthews
29. JLC Cultural Services	30. Jumbunna Traffic Management Group Pty Ltd
31. Kauma Pondee Inc.	32. Kawul Cultural Services
33. KL. KG Saunders Trading Services	34. Lorraine Towney
35. Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated	36. Lower Hunter Wonnarua Council Inc.
37. Lower Wonnaruah Tribal Consultancy Pty Ltd	38. Michelle Saunders
39. Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council	40. Mingga Consultants
41. Mooki Plains Management	42. Mooki Plains Management
43. Murrawan Cultural Consultants Pty Ltd	44. Moreeites
45. Muswellbrook Cultural Consultants	46. Rebecca Lester
47. Ngarramang-Kuri Aboriginal Culture & Heritage Group	48. Roger Noel Matthews Consultancy
49. Ron Smith	50. Roslyn Sampson
51. Scott Smith	52. Smith Dhagaans Cultural Group
53. St Clair Singleton Aboriginal Corporation	54. Steven Saunders
55. T & G Culture Consultants	56. Thawan Heritage Consultant
57. Trevor Robinson	58. Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation
59. Ungooroo Cultural & Community Services	60. Upper Hunter Heritage Consultants
61. Upper Hunter Wonnarua Council Inc.	62. Valley Culture
63. Waabi Gabinya Cultural Consultancy	64. Wallangan Cultural Services
65. Wanaruah Custodians,	66. Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council
67. Warragil Cultural Services	68. Wattaka Wonnarua C.C. Service

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69. Widescope Indigenous Group Pty Ltd	70. Wonn1 Contracting
71. Wonnarua Culture Heritage	72. Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation
73. Wonnarua Elders Council	74. Wurrumay Consultants
75. Yarrawalk (A division of Tocomwall Pty Ltd)	76. Yinarr Cultural Services.

### Stage 2 – Presentation of Information about the Project

28 parties registered interest in the Project and requested that they be involved in fieldwork and ongoing consultation. These RAPs are listed in **Table 5** in **Section 3.3.1**.

None of the registered groups had any issues with the proposed methodology. A request was sent with the draft methodology requesting that any initial comments regarding the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the Project Area be provided to AECOM. None of the RAPs had any specific comment on the cultural heritage values of the Project Area at that stage of consultation.

Requests for registration were also received from two RAPs, Kawul Cultural Services (16 June 2014) and Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation (20 June 2014) after the closing date for registration and after fieldwork had already been completed. Kawul Cultural Services and Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation were registered for comment and feedback and kept informed about RCS following receipt of their email request. These additional two RAPs are also included in **Table 5**.

### Stage 3 – Gathering information about Cultural Significance

During the archaeological assessment process the AECOM archaeologists consulted with RAPs regarding the cultural heritage values of the Project Area. This included:

- A request with the draft methodology for any initial comments regarding the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the Project Area;
- Discussion of cultural heritage values during field survey; and
- The provision of a draft report to all RAPs for comment prior to finalisation.

A total of 28 groups were contacted by 19 May 2014 to provide comment and feedback on the proposed methodology. Groups were given the opportunity to provide written comment during the consultation period by phone, letter, fax or email. Those groups that had not provided written comment were phoned and emailed during the consultation period so that they had the opportunity to verbally discuss the methodology. None of the groups raised any issue regarding the proposed methodology.

Fieldwork was undertaken between 27 May and 29 May 2014. Representatives from Gomerai Namoi, Hunters & Collectors and Wattaka Wonnarua Cultural Consultancy Services that had been invited to attend were unable to make it on the day. Discussion of cultural heritage values was undertaken with all attending RAP representatives during the fieldwork and all comments were recorded. The following representatives were in attendance for the fieldwork.

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**Table B2  
Fieldwork Attendance**

Tuesday 27 May 2014	Wednesday 28 May 2014	Thursday 29 May 2014
Donna Swan (Wallangan Cultural Services)	Rebecca Lester (Culturally Aware)	Annie Hickey (Gidawaa Walang Cultural Heritage Consultancy)
George Sampson (Cacatua General Services)	Rhonda Ward (Ungooroo Cultural and Community Service)	David Johnson (Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated)
Adam Sampson (AGA Services)	Kylie Saunders (Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council)	Steven Campbell (DFTV Enterprises)
Arthur Fletcher (Kauwul Wonn1 Contracting)	Wayne French (Alieria French Trading)	David Ahoy (Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated)
Allen Paget (Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation)	Jenny Chambers (JLC Cultural Services)	Ben Smith (Smith Dhaagans)
Malcolm Franks (Tocomwall Pty Ltd)	Melissa Sullivan (JLC Cultural Services)	

Comments regarding cultural values were provided by some representatives during the fieldwork.

RAP representatives noted the level of past disturbance across the area, including vegetation clearance, erosion and earthworks associated with dams and contour banks. Annie Hickey of Gidawaa Walang Cultural Heitage Consultancy noted that the area around Rixs Creek had been highly disturbed by past earthworks and erosion. The disturbed quality of both Rixs Creek and Dead Mans Gully was also referred to by other RAP representatives, including Rebecca Lester (Culturally Aware), Kylie Saunders (Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council) and Rhonda Ward (Ungooroo Cultural and Community Service). Rhonda Ward also noted that there was not much material located in the steeper, hilly areas, noting the cultural focus on flat areas around water sources.

RAP participants generally noted the importance of water sources to past Aboriginal people, with Rixs Creek and Dead Mans Gully both identified as foci for past activity. Regarding the cultural material identified during the survey, RAP representatives noted that it was of significance as it provided a physical link to their ancestors. The artefacts within the landscape provided a tangible presence, marking the location and activity of the area's Aboriginal past. Vicky Slater from Kawul Cultural Services stated: "the Project Area has a cultural connection to Country for me as a Traditional Owner with Ancestral Connection".

Rebecca Lester of Culturally Aware discussed the nature of lost connections to the past and the part that archaeological surveys and fieldwork played in fostering reconnections for some members of the Aboriginal community. "I don't know anything specific about this area," she stated. "Part of the reason I come out on jobs like this is to find out, because, for a lot of us, a lot of the information and stories haven't been passed on. I want to protect what is here, make sure it is recorded properly, and reconnect

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that way. When we get together in groups there are sometimes people with stories, but I don't know any about this area."

**Stage 4 – Review of Draft**

A copy of the draft report was sent electronically and by post to all Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) on 8 August 2014. A 28 day consultation period followed during which all RAPs were invited to provide comment on the report prior to its finalisation. All comments received were used to inform finalisation of the report. A record of consultation was maintained throughout this process and is included in Appendix A of the AACHIA along with all feedback that was received. In the lead-up to the close of the 28 day comment period, phone calls and emails were used to remind RAPs of the closing date and to encourage the provision of comment.

Feedback provided by HECMO Consultants stated that their preference was that any artefacts collected during future testing and salvage works be kept on country. Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated had the same concern, recommending that any artefacts recovered be reburied on site or stored by the Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated stated: "Our members have no known ceremonial sacred sites in the proposed area but it is still of high importance to the Aboriginal community with the number of artefacts already discovered there is a high probability of more being found as a part of a larger camping and hunting grounds... All the Wonnarua land is culturally significant and very important to our members who wish to continue to practise and save their culture from being destroyed".

In addition to agreeing with the recommendations of the draft report, Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council also considered that the reassessment and protection of other sites across the broader Rixs Creek Mine disturbance area should be "addressed in the proposed Cultural Heritage Management Plan for this project".

No issues or objections were raised regarding the report, which RAPs stated they agreed with and supported. **Table B2** summarises the responses to the draft report.

The results of this consultation informed the management and mitigation recommendations in the EIS that have been adopted into this ACHMP.

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**Table B2**  
**RAP Draft Report Review Responses**

Organisation	Contact person	Date of response	Comments
A1 Indigenous Services	Carolyn Hickey	11 August 2014	"A1 Indigenous Services supports the draft report outlined by AECOM".
AGA Services	Adam Sampson	5 September 2014	"AGA Services and Cacatua General Services have discussed the information supplied and are in support of it".
Aliera French Trading	Aliera French	NA	No comments provided
Amanda Hickey Cultural Services	Amanda Hickey	11 August 2014	"AHCS supports the draft report outlined by AECOM".
Cacatua General Services	Donna Sampson	5 September 2014	"AGA Services and Cacatua General Services have discussed the information supplied and are in support of it".
Crimson-Rosie	Jeff Matthews	NA	No comments provided
Culturally Aware	Tracey Skene	5 September 2014	"I have viewed this proposed Draft report and have no concerns at this point of time".
DFTV Enterprises	Derrick Vale	8 September 2014	"Happy with it as it stands".
Divine Diggers A. C. C.	Deidre Perkins	18 August 2014	"We had a quick read through the draft and it look fine".
Gidawaa Walang Cultural Heritage Consultancy	Annie Hickey	13 August 2014	"Gidawaa Walang Cultural Heritage Consultancy supports the Management recommendations for the above project".
Gomeroi Namoi	Greg Heard	5 September 2014	"I have not issues with draft report providing assessments are carried out adequately and areas that may be identified as pads by community as well as archaeologist be investigated to the full potential".
HECMO Consultants	Kerren Boyd	4 September 2014	"Only thing I'd like to happen is that the artefacts stay one country, HECMO is comfortable about the rix creek project".

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Organisation	Contact person	Date of response	Comments
Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation	Tiana Geihe	NA	No comment provided.
Hunters & Collectors	Tania Matthews	5 September 2014	"At the moment I have no questions and nothing to add, I feel it is a good report and cover all areas well. It is good to see you are taking good care of Aboriginal history and if you need any help in the future feel free to contact me".
JLC Cultural Services	Jenny-Lee Chambers	5 September 2014	"I am happy with the report and have no comments".
Kauwul Wonn1 Contracting	Arthur Fletcher	6 September 2014	"At this stage we support this Draft Report, And as things progress it may change our prospective".
Kawul Cultural Services	Vicky Slater	NA	No comments provided.
Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated	David Ahoy	5 September 2014	"LHAI members agreed with the methodology and that all consultation was presented in the proper manna with respect to Aboriginal Culture and Values".
Lower Hunter Wonnarua Cultural Services	Tom Miller	5 September 2014	No issues raised during verbal conversation about the draft. No specific comments provided.
Michele Saunders	Michele Saunders	5 September 2014	"I don't have anything to comment on this report".
Smith Dhaagans	Timothy Smith	NA	No comments provided.
Tocomwall Pty Ltd	Scott Franks	5 September 2014	"I have read and understood the report, the only concern that I have is the proponent or OEH have not complied with section 3.3.1 of the consultation guidelines. Please do not take this comment as a rejection of the report but our Registered Native title claim group are concerned that no consideration of our position as traditional Knowledge holders is being managed".

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Organisation	Contact person	Date of response	Comments
Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation	Allen Paget	NA	No comments provided.
Ungooroo Cultural and Community Service	Rhonda Ward	NA	No comments provided.
Wallangan Cultural Services	Maree Waugh	4 September 2014	"I don't have a problem with the report".
Wanaruah Custodians Aboriginal Corporation	Reginald Eveleigh	NA	No comments provided.
Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council	Suzie Worth	15 September 2014	"We have reviewed the above draft report and generally agree with the recommendations. We urge Rixs Creek Mine to accept the conditions within these recommendations and wish to add...reassessment... and...protection is addressed in the proposed Cultural Heritage Management Plan".
Wattaka Wonnarua Cultural Consultancy Services	Des Hickey	8 September 2014	"Wattaka WCCS agrees with the draft report for the project at Rixs Creek".
Widescope Indigenous Group	Steven Hickey	11 August 2014	"Widescope supports the draft report outlined by AECOM".
Yinarr Cultural Services	Kathleen Kinchela	NA	No comments provided.

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## Appendix C – Responses to ACHMP

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**Table C1**  
**RAP Draft ACHMP Review Responses**

No.	Comment	Response	Section
1	Four responses supported the ACHMP	Noted	Nil
2	One query was raised in relation to consultation on the project. No issues raised on the ACHMP.	Tocumwall were involved in the original assessment.	Appendix B
<b>One respondent noted the following points:</b>			
3	The time frame for review should be 28 days.	Note responses were received and incorporated up to 28 days.	Appendix C
4	Minimal consultation with RAPs.	The RAPs were consulted for the original assessment in 2014.	Section 3.3.1 Appendix B
5	The process under Section 5.3 excludes RAPs from any involvement other than notification.	Section 5.3 notes that should a find be identified as an Aboriginal site, the RAPs will be contacted and consultation will occur during assessment and salvage.	5.3
6	Automatic salvage of 'low' scientific value sites is not supported.	Bloomfield have approval to salvage these sites as determined through the consultation process for the EIS	Appendix B
7	RAPs should be notified immediately any human remains are found.	The process outlined in <b>Section 4.7</b> and <b>Section 5.5</b> is a standard process.	4.7 5.5
8	Training must be approved	Any training packages will be consistent with this plan.	6
9	Bloomfield to make an annual contribution to an Aboriginal Community fund to assist the local Aboriginal Community.	Mitigation in relation to the RCS site has been agreed as outlined in this ACHMP.	Nil

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**Kirstin Blaikie**

**From:** Wolf <dontminemeay@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 June 2020 4:50 AM  
**To:** Chris Knight; Kathie Steward Kinchela; Wolf  
**Subject:** Re: Yinarr Cultural Services Reply Rix's Creek South SSD 6300. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan- request for consultation.

Dear Chris,

Yinarr Cultural Services thanks you for the recent email concerning Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project SSD 6300.

We Look Forward to a our hard copy so we may look over it to make comment.

We look forward in working with you in the future and continue with our ongoing efforts in communicating regarding the above project and other projects that might arise with you in the future.

Kind Regards,

Kathie Steward Kinchela  
Yinarr Cultural Services

On Mon, Jun 1, 2020 at 3:02 PM Chris Knight <[cknight@bloomcoll.com.au](mailto:cknight@bloomcoll.com.au)> wrote:

**Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project SSD 6300. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan- request for consultation.**

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

I am contacting you as you are a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project (**the Project**) which was approved under SSD 6300 (**the Approval**) on 12 October 2019. The Approval allows continued mining of the Rix's Creek South Mining Operations till 12 October 2040.

Due to a number of procedural delays and extended assessment timeframes it has been some time since we have been in contact with you about the Project. Rix's Creek Mine commenced operations under the new Project Approval on 24 February 2020 however no new disturbance has occurred at this time.

Condition B57 of the Approval requires that an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) must be developed in consultation with the RAPs. The ACHMP sets out management polices to ensure that Aboriginal sites outside of approved impact are conserved in the landscape, details policies governing the new discovery of Aboriginal objects and human skeletal material, and provides a salvage methodology for those sites within the approved disturbance area.

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I invite you to review the attached ACHMP and provide any comment you may have. In particular, can I draw your attention to Appendix F that sets out the salvage program for those sites within the approved disturbance area. The recommendations in this appendix follow the recommendations contained in the 2014 report by AECOM Australia Pty Ltd. Aboriginal Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment. Rix's Creek Continuation of Mining Project. This report informed the Environmental Impact Statement that accompanied the development application for the Project.

It is the intention of Rix's Creek Mine to undertake this salvage program following approval of the ACHMP by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. As a RAP for the project, you will be informed prior to any salvage works commencing and there may be opportunities for you to assist in the field program.

Should you have any comments on the attached ACHMP, please submit these to me prior to Monday 22 June 2020. You can submit comments by email, or by phone if you prefer.

I thank you for your interest in this Project, and now that the Project has received Approval, I look forward to more frequent communication with you.

Should you no longer wish to be consulted about this project, please contact me and I will remove your name from the RAP list.

Please note that a hardcopy of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan and individual cover letter has also been posted to you via registered mail.

Best Regards,



**WE CARE. WE DELIVER.**

**Chris Knight**

Environment Manager

E: [cknight@bloomcoll.com.au](mailto:cknight@bloomcoll.com.au) | T: 02 6578 8824 | M: 0403 058 777

W: [www.bloomcoll.com.au](http://www.bloomcoll.com.au)

PO Box 4, East Maitland, NSW 2323

North: Bridgman Road, South: Rix's Creek Lane, Singleton, NSW 2330 Australia

Please note: If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply e-mail and delete all copies of this transmission together with any attachments as the information contained and any attached files may be confidential and/or subject of legal professional privilege.

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**Kirstin Blaikie**

**From:** Carolyn .H <cazadirect@live.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 June 2020 1:27 PM  
**To:** Chris Knight  
**Subject:** Re: Rix's Creek South SSD 6300. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan- request for consultation.



**Contact:** Carolyn Hickey  
**M:** 0411650057  
**E:** Cazadirect@live.com  
**A:** 10 Marie Pitt Place, Glenmore Park, NSW 2745  
**ACN:** 639 868 876

Hi Chris,  
 I have reviewed the information and support the ACHMP.  
 I would like to continue consultation and any future field work.  
 Kind regards  
 Carolyn Hickey

**From:** Chris Knight <cknight@bloomcoll.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 1 June 2020 3:00 PM  
**To:** Chris Knight <cknight@bloomcoll.com.au>  
**Subject:** Rix's Creek South SSD 6300. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan- request for consultation.

**Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project SSD 6300. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan- request for consultation.**

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

I am contacting you as you are a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project (**the Project**) which was approved under SSD 6300 (**the Approval**) on 12 October 2019. The Approval allows continued mining of the Rix's Creek South Mining Operations till 12 October 2040.

Due to a number of procedural delays and extended assessment timeframes it has been some time since we have been in contact with you about the Project. Rix's Creek Mine commenced operations under the new Project Approval on 24 February 2020 however no new disturbance has occurred at this time.

Condition B57 of the Approval requires that an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) must be developed in consultation with the RAPs. The ACHMP sets out management polices to ensure that Aboriginal sites outside of approved impact are conserved in the landscape, details policies governing the new discovery of Aboriginal objects and human skeletal material, and provides a salvage methodology for those sites within the approved disturbance area.

I invite you to review the attached ACHMP and provide any comment you may have. In particular, can I draw your attention to Appendix F that sets out the salvage program for those sites within the approved

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Prepared By:	Ben Churcher (OzArk) Kirstin Blaikie (HB)	Print Date:	3-Jul-20	Version No:	1.0
Reviewed By:	Dianne Munro (HB)	Review Frequency:	<b>36 MONTHS</b>	Issue Date:	03/07/2020
Approved By:	Chris Knight			Page No:	48 of 96



disturbance area. The recommendations in this appendix follow the recommendations contained in the 2014 report by AECOM Australia Pty Ltd. Aboriginal Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment. Rix's Creek Continuation of Mining Project. This report informed the Environmental Impact Statement that accompanied the development application for the Project.

It is the intention of Rix's Creek Mine to undertake this salvage program following approval of the ACHMP by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. As a RAP for the project, you will be informed prior to any salvage works commencing and there may be opportunities for you to assist in the field program.

Should you have any comments on the attached ACHMP, please submit these to me prior to Monday 22 June 2020. You can submit comments by email, or by phone if you prefer.

I thank you for your interest in this Project, and now that the Project has received Approval, I look forward to more frequent communication with you.

Should you no longer wish to be consulted about this project, please contact me and I will remove your name from the RAP list.

Please note that a hardcopy of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan and individual cover letter has also been posted to you via registered mail.

Best Regards,



**Chris Knight**  
 Environment Manager  
 E: [cknight@bloomcoll.com.au](mailto:cknight@bloomcoll.com.au) | T: 02 6578 8824 | M: 0403 058 777  
 W: [www.bloomcoll.com.au](http://www.bloomcoll.com.au)  
 PO Box 4, East Maitland, NSW 2323  
 North: Bridgman Road, South: Rixs Creek Lane, Singleton, NSW 2330 Australia

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Approved By:	Chris Knight			Page No:	49 of 96

**Kirstin Blaikie**

**From:** Chris Knight  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 June 2020 11:41 AM  
**To:** 'Scott Franks'  
**Cc:** Robert Lester; Robert Lester; Geoff Moore  
**Subject:** RE: Rix's Creek South SSD 6300. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan-request for consultation.

Hi Scott,  
 The consultation Rix's Creek Mine is undertaking at present is for the ACHMP only. Consultation requirements for an ACHMP are not contained within the NPW Act but rather come from the consent condition for SSD 6300 (B57(b)) that states that the ACHMP "be prepared in consultation with BCD and Registered Aboriginal Parties". As the project has an established RAP list, we are continuing to use this list for the purposes of consultation on the ACHMP only.

Given Tocomwall is a RAP for the project, we would certainly value any comment Tocomwall may have on the ACHMP.

Best Regards,



**Chris Knight**  
 Environment Manager  
 E: [cknight@bloomcoll.com.au](mailto:cknight@bloomcoll.com.au) | T: 02 6578 8824 | M: 0403 058 777  
 W: [www.bloomcoll.com.au](http://www.bloomcoll.com.au)  
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**From:** Scott Franks [mailto:[scott@tocomwall.com.au](mailto:scott@tocomwall.com.au)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 June 2020 9:14 AM  
**To:** Chris Knight <[cknight@bloomcoll.com.au](mailto:cknight@bloomcoll.com.au)>  
**Cc:** Robert Lester <[robert@tocomwall.com.au](mailto:robert@tocomwall.com.au)>; Robert Lester <[carrob1@outlook.com](mailto:carrob1@outlook.com)>; Geoff Moore <[gmoore@bloomcoll.com.au](mailto:gmoore@bloomcoll.com.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Rix's Creek South SSD 6300. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan-request for consultation.

Chris,

Thank you for the update, I am a little confused. If the management plan was being resubmitted and this is a draft I need to ask why the consultants have not re-advertised, I would think this would need to be a requirement under the Act.

Regards  
 Scott Franks  
 Registered native title claimant PCWP  
 Tocomwall PTY Limited  
[Scott@tocomwall.com.au](mailto:Scott@tocomwall.com.au)  
 Ph: 0404171544

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	Review Frequency:		<b>36 MONTHS</b>
		Page No:	50 of 96

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On 2 Jun 2020, at 8:27 am, Chris Knight <[cknight@bloomcoll.com.au](mailto:cknight@bloomcoll.com.au)> wrote:

Dear Scott,

Thank you for your quick response. I appreciate that it has been six years since the assessment took place for this project but our records show that Tocomwall were involved in both the fieldwork and in responding to the draft heritage report. Further, our records show that it is Tocomwall, not the PCWP, who registered to be consulted with regard to this project. We can supply these records should you wish to see them.

Given Tocomwall's previous engagement with the project, we would certainly value any comment Tocomwall may have on the ACHMP. Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best Regards

**Chris Knight**

Environment Manager

E: [cknight@bloomcoll.com.au](mailto:cknight@bloomcoll.com.au) | T: 02 6578 8824 | M: 0403 058 777

W: [www.bloomcoll.com.au](http://www.bloomcoll.com.au)

PO Box 4, East Maitland, NSW 2323

<image001.jpg> North: Bridgman Road, South: Rixs Creek Lane, Singleton, NSW 2330 Australia

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**From:** Scott Franks [<mailto:scott@tocomwall.com.au>]

**Sent:** Monday, 1 June 2020 4:19 PM

**To:** Chris Knight <[cknight@bloomcoll.com.au](mailto:cknight@bloomcoll.com.au)>; Robert Lester <[robert@tocomwall.com.au](mailto:robert@tocomwall.com.au)>; Robert Lester <[carrob1@outlook.com](mailto:carrob1@outlook.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Rix's Creek South SSD 6300. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan- request for consultation.

Dear Chris,

Thank you for sending this over. Unfortunately Tocomwall and the PCWP cannot support this at know stage have we been consulted and as a matter of interest Tocomwall has not been on site for over 10 years. The PCWP have never been consulted nor be in site.

Regards

Scott Franks

Registered native title claimant PCWP

Tocomwall PTY Limited

[Scott@tocomwall.com.au](mailto:Scott@tocomwall.com.au)

Ph: 0404171544

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**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan**  
**Rix's Creek South**

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On 1 Jun 2020, at 3:03 pm, Chris Knight <[cknight@bloomcoll.com.au](mailto:cknight@bloomcoll.com.au)> wrote:



<200525 RCS Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan.pdf>

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Approved By:	Chris Knight			Page No:	52 of 96

**Kirstin Blaikie**

**From:** Arthur Fletcher <wonn1sites@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 18 June 2020 8:41 AM  
**To:** Chris Knight  
**Subject:** Re: Rix's Creek South SSD 6300. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan- request for consultation.

Hi Chris.  
 We hope all is well with you guys. First up thanks for the info and hopefully we can catch in person in the future with reps of W. E. C. As far as the A.C. H. M. P. We are happy to su and move forward at this point in time. Ps All stay safe.  
 Regards Kauwul-Arthur and Lynne.  
 Sent from my iPad

On 1 Jun 2020, at 3:02 pm, Chris Knight <cknight@bloomcoll.com.au> wrote:

**Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project SSD 6300. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan- request for consultation.**

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

I am contacting you as you are a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project (**the Project**) which was approved under SSD 6300 (**the Approval**) on 12 October 2019. The Approval allows continued mining of the Rix's Creek South Mining Operations till 12 October 2040.

Due to a number of procedural delays and extended assessment timeframes it has been some time since we have been in contact with you about the Project. Rix's Creek Mine commenced operations under the new Project Approval on 24 February 2020 however no new disturbance has occurred at this time.

Condition B57 of the Approval requires that an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) must be developed in consultation with the RAPs. The ACHMP sets out management polices to ensure that Aboriginal sites outside of approved impact are conserved in the landscape, details policies governing the new discovery of Aboriginal objects and human skeletal material, and provides a salvage methodology for those sites within the approved disturbance area.

I invite you to review the attached ACHMP and provide any comment you may have. In particular, can I draw your attention to Appendix F that sets out the salvage program for those sites within the approved disturbance area. The recommendations in this appendix follow the recommendations contained in the 2014 report by AECOM Australia Pty Ltd. Aboriginal Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment. Rix's Creek Continuation of Mining Project. This report informed the Environmental Impact Statement that accompanied the development application for the Project.

It is the intention of Rix's Creek Mine to undertake this salvage program following approval of the ACHMP by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. As a RAP for the project, you will be informed prior to any salvage works commencing and there may be opportunities for you to assist in the field program.

Should you have any comments on the attached ACHMP, please submit these to me prior to Monday 22 June 2020. You can submit comments by email, or by phone if you prefer.

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Approved By:	Chris Knight			Page No: 53 of 96

**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan**  
**Rix's Creek South**

I thank you for your interest in this Project, and now that the Project has received Approval, I look forward to more frequent communication with you.

Should you no longer wish to be consulted about this project, please contact me and I will remove your name from the RAP list.

Please note that a hardcopy of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan and individual cover letter has also been posted to you via registered mail.

Best Regards,

**Chris Knight**

Environment Manager

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W: [www.bloomcoll.com.au](http://www.bloomcoll.com.au)

PO Box 4, East Maitland, NSW 2323

<image001.jpg> North: Bridgman Road, South: Rixs Creek Lane, Singleton, NSW 2330 Australia

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Approved By:	Chris Knight			Page No:	54 of 96

**Kirstin Blaikie**

**From:** Amanda DeZwart <amandahickey@live.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 June 2020 6:51 PM  
**To:** Chris Knight  
**Subject:** Re: Rix's Creek South SSD 6300. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan- request for consultation.



**Contact:** Amanda DeZwart  
**Mobile:** 0434 480 558  
**Address:** 57 Gough St, Emu Plains, NSW 2750  
**ABN:** 498 242 132 40

Hi Chris,  
 I have reviewed the information and support the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan.  
 I would like to continue consultation and future field work.  
 Kind Regards  
 Amanda DeZwart

**From:** Chris Knight <cknight@bloomcoll.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 1 June 2020 3:00 PM  
**To:** Chris Knight <cknight@bloomcoll.com.au>  
**Subject:** Rix's Creek South SSD 6300. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan- request for consultation.

**Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project SSD 6300. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan- request for consultation.**

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

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Reviewed By:	Dianne Munro (HB)	Review Frequency:	<b>36 MONTHS</b>	Issue Date: 03/07/2020
Approved By:	Chris Knight			Page No: 55 of 96

that Aboriginal sites outside of approved impact are conserved in the landscape, details policies governing the new discovery of Aboriginal objects and human skeletal material, and provides a salvage methodology for those sites within the approved disturbance area.

I invite you to review the attached ACHMP and provide any comment you may have. In particular, can I draw your attention to Appendix F that sets out the salvage program for those sites within the approved disturbance area. The recommendations in this appendix follow the recommendations contained in the 2014 report by AECOM Australia Pty Ltd. Aboriginal Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment. Rix's Creek Continuation of Mining Project. This report informed the Environmental Impact Statement that accompanied the development application for the Project.

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Should you no longer wish to be consulted about this project, please contact me and I will remove your name from the RAP list.

Please note that a hardcopy of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan and individual cover letter has also been posted to you via registered mail.

Best Regards,



**WE CARE. WE DELIVER.**

**Chris Knight**  
 Environment Manager  
 E: [cknight@bloomcoll.com.au](mailto:cknight@bloomcoll.com.au) | T: 02 6578 8824 | M: 0403 058 777  
 W: [www.bloomcoll.com.au](http://www.bloomcoll.com.au)  
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P.O. BOX 127  
19 MAITLAND STREET,  
MUSWELLBROOK 2333  
ABN 33 251 730 169

PH: (02) 6543 1288  
(02) 6543 1962  
FAX: (02) 6542 5377  
EMAIL: wanaruah@bigpond.net.au

Chris Knight  
Environmental Manager  
The Bloomfield Group  
P.O. Box 4  
Maitland 2323

Re: Response to The Bloomfield Group, Rixs Creek Mine, Rixs Creek South Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

Dear Chris,

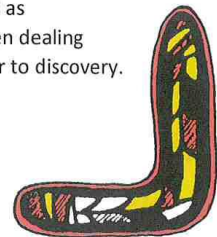
Disappointingly Wanaruah LALC received the above document on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 for a response by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020. This was not only impossible but unreasonable. A minimum 28 days need to be allowed for this kind of review.

Wanaruah LALC is of the opinion that the consultation with the Aboriginal community by Bloomfield has been at best minimalistic and we consider that inadequate. There has been no meetings to discuss what may be known outside of the archaeology and registered sites. There has been no attempt to gather and document cultural values.

The process under section 5.3 for management of previously unrecorded finds is written in such a way as to allow the exclusion of Aboriginal Community Stakeholders (RAPs) from any involvement other than notification.

Wanaruah LALC also does not support the automatic salvage of sites deemed "low" scientific value. The scientific value of the site is all but irrelevant when managing culture.

Management of potential human remains process need to have a notification to RAPs immediately. This is a find in an area of cultural significance. There are ceremonies that will be required to cleans the area, irrespective of who it is, once it has been disturbed. Wanaruah LALC would also require input into who is a suitable forensic anthropologist to examine the remains if identified as Aboriginal. There are some who have demonstrated a lack of culturally sensitivity when dealing with the community. Any decision to relocate ancestral remains will not be done prior to discovery. This suggestion needs to be removed from the process.

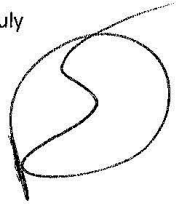


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In the section under the heading Aboriginal Heritage awareness training, Wanaruah LALC will insist upon approving the content of such training within the LALC boundary.

Wanaruah LALC would like to see the Bloomfield Group make an annual contribution to an Aboriginal Community fund to assist the Local community deliver community education, training and projects for the Local Aboriginal Community. Wanaruah LALC would like to part of the management committee of such a fund. The value of the contribution should be based on the value of the resource removed and the area impacted.

Yours Truly



Noel Downs  
CEO

29/6/2020

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# Appendix D – Regulatory Correspondence

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Approved By:	Chris Knight			Page No:	59 of 96



Our ref: DOC20/408075-2  
Your ref: SSD-6300-PA-16

Mr Chris Knight

Environment Manager  
The Bloomfield Group  
[cknight@bloomcoll.com.au](mailto:cknight@bloomcoll.com.au)

Dear Chris

**Review of Draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan – Rix's Creek South (SSD-6300-PA-16)**

I refer to your email dated 25 May 2020 requesting Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to review the Draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) under the Rix's Creek South (SSD-6300-PA-16) Major Project approval (dated 12 October 2019). The ACHMP was submitted to BCD for review on 28 May 2020.

BCD recommendations are provided in **Attachment A** and detailed comments are provided in **Attachment B**. If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Gillian Goode, Archaeologist, Hunter Central Coast Branch on 0499 588 790 or via email at [rog.hcc@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rog.hcc@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

**STEVE LEWER**  
Acting Senior Team Leader Planning  
Hunter Central Coast Branch  
Biodiversity and Conservation Division

**Date:** 26 June 2020

Enclosure: Attachments A and B

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Approved By:	Chris Knight	Issue Date:	03/07/2020
Review Frequency:	<b>36 MONTHS</b>	Page No:	60 of 96

**Attachment A**

**BCD's recommendations**

**Rix's Creek South – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan**

1. Aboriginal community consultation should be undertaken for the project and supporting documentary evidence provided in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010).
2. The ACHMP should be updated to include identifying details and site status of all Aboriginal sites recorded within the Project Boundary.
3. BCD recommends that salvage reports, documenting activities relating to harm of Aboriginal objects, undertaken for the project, are submitted to BCD.
4. The Rix's Creek South ACHMP should be updated to clearly identify the location and site coordinates of the secure, lockable facility used as a Temporary Keeping Place. The identifying details should be provided to BCD. Any access to the locked storage facility is the responsibility of the Rix's Creek South Operations Management.

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**Attachment B**

**BCD's detailed comments**

**Rix's Creek South (SSD 6300 PA 16) – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan**

**Aboriginal cultural heritage**

1. The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan does not demonstrate that adequate Aboriginal community consultation has been conducted

Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) has identified that evidence has not been supplied to demonstrate that adequate Aboriginal community consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010).

The consultation requirements outline a clear process that ensures relevant Aboriginal stakeholders who may hold cultural knowledge have an opportunity to be consulted with in respect to a proposed project, and to provide relevant information about cultural significance and values. The outcomes of this process should inform the strategies outlined in the Rix's Creek South Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP).

The ACHMP should be updated to include all relevant supporting consultation documentation necessary to demonstrate the requirements have been satisfied and that any comments from the registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) have been addressed. Copies of all consultation documents should be supplied.

Recommendation 1

Aboriginal community consultation should be undertaken for the project and supporting documentary evidence provided in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010).

2. The database should include a record of all Aboriginal sites within the Project Boundary

The Rix's Creek South Aboriginal Sites Database (Section 4.1 of the ACHMP) should include identifying details and site status of all Aboriginal sites recorded within the Project Boundary. The database is to be regularly updated showing the AHIMS site number and current site status of all sites as either valid (extant) or not valid (destroyed or salvaged). The database should be updated to include any new sites identified within the Project Boundary.

Recommendation 2

The ACHMP should be updated to include identifying details and site status of all Aboriginal sites recorded within the Project Boundary.

3. Copies of salvage reports should be submitted to BCD

The ACHMP refers to the salvage program of Aboriginal sites for the Rix's Creek South project. Copies of the salvage and test excavation report, documenting works relating to the harm of Aboriginal objects under the ACHMP, should be submitted to BCD. A copy of the Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Forms for each site salvaged should be appended to the report.

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Prepared By:	Ben Churcher (OzArk) Kirstin Blaikie (HB)	Print Date:	3-Jul-20	Version No: 1.0
Reviewed By:	Dianne Munro (HB)	Review Frequency:	<b>36 MONTHS</b>	Issue Date: 03/07/2020
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Recommendation 3

BCD recommends that salvage reports documenting activities relating to harm of Aboriginal objects, undertaken for the project, are submitted to BCD.

4. The location details of the Temporary Keeping Place should be recorded in the ACHMP

Details of the secure and locked site location and coordinates of the Rix's Creek South Temporary Keeping Place for storage of all salvaged Aboriginal objects should be recorded in the ACHMP and details provided to BCD. The ACHMP should be updated with these details in Section 5.4 (Storage of Aboriginal Objects). Any access to the locked storage facility is the responsibility of the Rix's Creek South Operations Management. Appropriate care and control provisions for the storage of any Aboriginal objects should be included in the ACHMP.

Recommendation 4

The Rix's Creek South ACHMP should be updated to clearly identify the location and site coordinates of the secure, lockable facility used as a Temporary Keeping Place. The identifying details should be provided to BCD. Any access to the locked storage facility is the responsibility of the Rix's Creek South Operations Management.

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**Planning & Assessment  
Resource Assessments**  
Contact: Joe Fittell  
Phone: 02 4908 6896  
Email: [joe.fittell@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:joe.fittell@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Christopher Knight  
Environmental Manager  
Four Mile Creek Road  
Asthonfield, NSW 2323

02/09/2020

Dear Mr Knight

**Rix's Creek South (SSD-6300)  
Approval of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan**

I refer to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan which was submitted in accordance with condition B57 of the Rix's Creek South development consent (SSD-6300).

The Department has carefully reviewed the document and is satisfied that it meets the requirements of the Project development consent.

Accordingly, the Planning Secretary has approved the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (version 1, dated July 2020). Please ensure that the approved plan is placed on the project website at your earliest convenience.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Joe Fittell at the details above.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Spratt  
Director  
Resource Assessments (Coal & Quarries)

As nominee of the Planning Secretary

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# Appendix E – Aboriginal Heritage Site Records to be updated

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Prepared By:	Ben Churcher (OzArk) Kirstin Blaikie (HB)	Print Date:	3-Jul-20	Version No:	1.0
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A site verification program undertaken for this ACHMP has noted a number of anomalies with sites at RCS between AHIMS locations and those recorded in reports and site cards.

The actions identified in **Table E1** will be undertaken to ensure that the data record is as accurate as possible.

**Table E1**  
**AHIMS records to be updated**

Site number	Query	Response
37-6-0242	The coordinates of this site are currently incorrect in AHIMS, although updated in the consent.	The correct site documentation was submitted to AHIMS in 2014 but the register has not been updated.  The coordinates in AHIMS will be updated to GDA94 Zone 56 324886 E 6400164 N.
37-6-0250	The coordinates of this site are currently incorrect in AHIMS, although updated in the consent.  This site is within the new disturbance area and will be salvaged under the procedures in the ACHMP.	The correct site documentation was submitted to AHIMS in 2014 but the register has not been updated.  The coordinates in AHIMS will be updated to GDA94 Zone 56 322899 E 6400971 N.
37-6-0236	The coordinates of this site are currently incorrect in AHIMS, although updated in the consent.  This site is within the new disturbance area and will be salvaged under the procedures in the ACHMP.	The correct site documentation was submitted to AHIMS in 2014 but the register has not been updated.  The coordinates in AHIMS will be updated to GDA94 Zone 56 322441 E 6401328 N.
37-6-0251	Although listed as valid with AHIMS, the site has been destroyed under permit.	An Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Form (ASIRF) will be submitted to change the site status in AHIMS to 'destroyed'.
37-6-1793	Although listed as valid with AHIMS, the site has been destroyed under permit.	An ASIRF will be submitted to change the site status in AHIMS to 'destroyed'.

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Reviewed By:	Dianne Munro (HB)	Version No:	1.0
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37-6-0698	This site is located within a previously disturbed area, but there is no disturbance permit listed against it in AHIMS.	<p>No information on when this site may have been salvaged is known.</p> <p>A site card update will be submitted to AHIMS to record that the site is certainly destroyed.</p>
37-6-0237	This site is located within a previously disturbed area, but there is no disturbance permit listed against it in AHIMS.	<p>No information on when this site may have been salvaged is known.</p> <p>A site card update will be submitted to AHIMS to record that the site is certainly destroyed.</p>
37-6-0252	Although listed as valid with AHIMS, it has been destroyed under permit.	An ASIRF will be submitted to change the site status in AHIMS to 'destroyed'.

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# Appendix F – Aboriginal Heritage Sites

Document Title:	<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan – RCS</b>		Document Owner:	<b>Chris Knight</b>	
Prepared By:	Ben Churcher (OzArk) Kirstin Blaikie (HB)	Print Date:	3-Jul-20	Version No:	1.0
Reviewed By:	Dianne Munro (HB)	Review Frequency:	<b>36 MONTHS</b>	Issue Date:	03/07/2020
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**Table F1  
Aboriginal Heritage Sites – Salvage Plan**

AHIMS #	Site Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Scientific Significance	Potential Impact	Management
37-6-0235	Rixs Creek Granbolong (Open Site No. 1 in Brayshaw, 1982b:13)	322294	6401250	Artefact Scatter	Moderate	Mining Disturbance Area	Surface collection and excavation
37-6-0236	Rixs Creek Granbolong (Open Site No. 2 in Brayshaw, 1982b:13)	322660	6401257	Artefact Scatter	Moderate	Mining Disturbance Area	Surface collection
37-6-0242	Rixs Creek Stonequarry Gully (Open Site No. 6 in Brayshaw, 1982b:13)	327277	6398874	Artefact Scatter	Moderate	No Impact	Fencing
37-6-0250	Rixs Creek (Open Site No. 16 in Brayshaw, 1982b:13)	323579	6400999	Artefact Scatter	Low	Mining Disturbance Area	Surface collection
37-6-3837	Rixs Creek AS1	322972	6401669	Artefact Scatter	Moderate	No impact	Fencing
37-6-3838	Rixs Creek AS2	323136	6401724	Artefact Scatter	Low	No impact	Fencing

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Reviewed By:	Dianne Munro (HB)	Review Frequency:	<b>36 MONTHS</b>	Issue Date:	03/07/2020
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AHIMS #	Site Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Scientific Significance	Potential Impact	Management
37-6-3839	Rixs Creek AS3	322762	6401386	Artefact Scatter	Low	Mining Disturbance Area	Surface collection
37-6-3840	Rixs Creek AS4	322828	6401254	Artefact Scatter	Low	Mining Disturbance Area	Surface collection
37-6-3841	Rixs Creek AS5	322668	6401355	Artefact Scatter	Low	Mining Disturbance Area	Surface collection
37-6-3842	Rixs Creek AS6	321846	6401142	Artefact Scatter	Low	No Impact	Fencing
37-6-3843	Rixs Creek AS7	321814	6400941	Artefact Scatter	Low	No impact	Fencing
37-6-3844	Rixs Creek AS8	322053	6400676	Artefact Scatter	Low	Mining Disturbance Area	Surface collection
37-6-3845	Rixs Creek AS9	322183	6400600	Artefact Scatter	Low	Mining Disturbance Area	Surface collection

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AHIMS #	Site Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Scientific Significance	Potential Impact	Management
37-6-3846	Rixs Creek AS10	322240	6400462	Artefact Scatter	Low	Mining Disturbance Area	Surface collection
37-6-3847	Rixs Creek AS11	322230	6399950	Artefact Scatter	Low	No impact	Fencing
37-6-3848	Rixs Creek AS12	321724	6399909	Artefact Scatter	Low	No impact	Fencing
37-6-3849	Rixs Creek AS13	321749	6400007	Artefact Scatter	Low	No impact	Fencing
37-6-3850	Rixs Creek AS14	324710	6400357	Artefact Scatter	Low	Mining Disturbance Area	Surface collection
37-6-3851	Rixs Creek AS15	324697	6400157	Artefact Scatter	Moderate	No impact	Fencing
37-6-3852	Rixs Creek AS16	324639	6400276	Artefact Scatter	Moderate	Mining Disturbance Area	Surface collection and excavation
37-6-3853	Rixs Creek IA1	322249	6401158	Isolated Artefact	Low	Mining Disturbance Area	Surface collection

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Rix's Creek South

AHIMS #	Site Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Scientific Significance	Potential Impact	Management
37-6-3854	Rixs Creek IA2	322876	6401598	Isolated Artefact	Low	Mining Disturbance Area	Surface collection
37-6-3855	Rixs Creek IA3	322864	6401111	Isolated Artefact	Low	Mining Disturbance Area	Surface collection
37-6-3856	Rixs Creek IA4	321918	6401291	Isolated Artefact	Low	No impact	Fencing
37-6-3857	Rixs Creek IA5	321745	6401160	Isolated Artefact	Low	No impact	Fencing
37-6-3858	Rixs Creek IA6	322118	6400261	Isolated Artefact	Low	Mining Disturbance Area	Surface collection
37-6-3859	Rixs Creek IA7	322256	6400188	Isolated Artefact	Low	Mining Disturbance Area	Surface collection
37-6-3860	Rixs Creek IA8	321925	6399801	Isolated Artefact	Low	No impact	Fencing

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**Table F2**  
**Aboriginal Heritage Sites – Not Impacted**

AHIMS #	Site Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Scientific Significance	Potential Impact	Management
37-3-0082	GCC20;Caswell;	326220	6402600	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-3-0160	39;	326080	6402950	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-0238	Rixs Creek (singleton)	326211	6401136	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-0239	Rixs Creek (Singleton)	326111	6401592	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-0240	Rixs Creek (Stone Quarry Gully)	325497	6400208	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-0243	Rixs Creek;	322244	6398135	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-0246	Rixs Creek;	323160	6398061	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-0247	Rixs Creek;	323444	6397517	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-0248	Rixs Creek;	324712	6398181	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-0249	Rixs Creek;	324064	6398627	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-0697	Rixs Creek 1;	323220	6398140	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-0699	Rixs Creek 2;	323140	6398280	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3

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Prepared By:	Ben Churcher (OzArk) Kirstin Blaikie (HB)	Print Date:	3-Jul-20	Version No:	1.0
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Rix's Creek South

AHIMS #	Site Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Scientific Significance	Potential Impact	Management
37-6-0787	McDougall Hill 4;	325300	6398680	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-2282	NBTT09	325072	6402591	Artefact	Not assessed	Partially Destroyed	Per Section 4.3
37-6-2283	NBTT10	326545	6401097	Artefact	Not assessed	Destroyed	Per Section 4.3
37-6-2790	Rix's Creek Rail Loop AS1	325388	6401809	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-2791	Rix's Creek Rail Loop AS2	325671	6401603	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-2792	Rix's Creek Rail Loop AS3	325888	6401543	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-2793	Rix's Creek Rail Loop IA1	325628	6402146	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-2794	Rix's Creek Rail Loop IA2	325524	6402165	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-2795	Rix's Creek Rail Loop AS4	326162	6400615	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-2796	Rix's Creek Rail Loop IA3	325390	6402026	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-2797	Rix's Creek Rail Loop IA4	325546	6401637	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-2798	Rix's Creek Rail Loop IA5	326206	6401280	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3

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Rix's Creek South

AHIMS #	Site Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Scientific Significance	Potential Impact	Management
37-6-2799	Rix's Creek Rail Loop IA6	326238	6401245	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-6-2800	Rix's Creek Rail Loop IA7	326330	6400201	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3
37-3-0082	GCC20;Caswell;	326220	6402600	Artefact	Not assessed	No Impact	Per Section 4.3

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# Appendix G – Draft Salvage Program

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Prepared By:	Ben Churcher (OzArk) Kirstin Blaikie (HB)	Print Date:	3-Jul-20	Version No:	1.0
Reviewed By:	Dianne Munro (HB)	Review Frequency:	<b>36 MONTHS</b>	Issue Date:	03/07/2020
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View of site 37-6-0235 (Photo: AECOM 2014b).

## SALVAGE METHODOLOGY

### ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

RIX'S CREEK MINE

MAY 2020

Prepared by  
OzArk Environment & Heritage



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Reviewed By:	Dianne Munro (HB)	Review Frequency:	<b>36 MONTHS</b>	Issue Date:	03/07/2020
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Prepared By:	Ben Churcher (OzArk) Kirstin Blaikie (HB)	Print Date:	3-Jul-20	
Reviewed By:	Dianne Munro (HB)	Version No:	1.0	
Approved By:	Chris Knight	Issue Date:	03/07/2020	
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**DOCUMENT CONTROLS**

Proponent	The Bloomfield Group	
Client	Hansen Bailey Environmental Consultants	
Document Description	Salvage Methodology. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	
File Location	OzArk Job No.	
▶ Hansen Bailey ▶ Rixs Creek ▶ Salvage methodology ▶ report	2561	
Document Status: V3.2 FINAL	Date: 5 May 2020	
Draft V1.1 Author to Editor OzArk 1 <sup>st</sup> Internal (Series V1._ = OzArk internal edits)		
Draft V2.0 Report Draft for release to client (Series V2._ = OzArk and Client edits)		
FINAL V3._once latest version of draft approved by client	V3.2: BC finalises 5/5/20	
Prepared For	Prepared By	
Kirstin Blaikie Senior Environmental Scientist Hansen Bailey	Ben Churcher Principal Archaeologist OzArk Environment & Heritage 145 Wingewarra Street (PO Box 2069) Dubbo NSW 2830 P: 02 6882 0118 F: 02 6882 6030 ben@ozarkehm.com.au	
<p><b>COPYRIGHT</b></p> <p>© OzArk Environment &amp; Heritage 2020 and © The Bloomfield Group 2020</p> <p>All intellectual property and copyright reserved.</p> <p>Apart from any fair dealing for private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, 1968, no part of this report may be reproduced, transmitted, stored in a retrieval system or adapted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise) without written permission.</p> <p>Enquiries should be addressed to OzArk Environment &amp; Heritage.</p>		

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Prepared By:	Ben Churcher (OzArk) Kirstin Blaikie (HB)	Print Date:	3-Jul-20
Reviewed By:	Dianne Munro (HB)	Version No:	1.0
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**Acknowledgement**

OzArk acknowledge Traditional Owners of the area on which this assessment took place and pay respect to their beliefs, cultural heritage and continuing connection with the land. We also acknowledge and pay respect to the post-contact experiences of Aboriginal people with attachment to the area and to the elders, past and present, as the next generation of role models and vessels for memories, traditions, culture and hopes of local Aboriginal people.

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## 1 ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

This salvage methodology relates to the salvage program that is largely confined to the new disturbance area associated with the Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project (SSD 6300) consented to on 12 October 2019.

### 1.1 SOCIO-CULTURAL VALUES

Rix's Creek South (RCS) is located within the traditional country of the Wonnarua people. The physical evidence of Aboriginal life throughout this country is pervasive. Cycles of life, interaction, ceremony and death are all represented in a range of sites throughout the Hunter Valley and beyond.

A prevailing view throughout the Aboriginal community is the importance of all physical evidence of Aboriginal life to current Aboriginal communities. Aboriginal sites provide a tangible connection to pre-European Aboriginal land use. Aboriginal sites are valuable in sustaining contemporary Aboriginal identity through opportunities for teaching and engagement with heritage in field investigations.

In relation to Rix's Creek, Aboriginal community members participants generally noted the importance of water sources to past Aboriginal people, with Rix's Creek and Dead Mans Gully both identified as foci for past activity in the area.

Regarding cultural material, such as stone artefacts, that have been identified by past archaeological investigations, the Aboriginal community has noted that it is of significance as it provides a physical link to their ancestors. The artefacts within the landscape provide a tangible presence, marking the location and activity of the area's Aboriginal past. The nature of lost connections to the past and the part that sites played in fostering re-connections for some members of the Aboriginal community has also been noted.

### 1.2 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Previous studies within the Project Area include:

- **Brayshaw 1982:** This 1982 study was the first for the proposed Rix's Creek Open Cut Coal Mine (Brayshaw 1982a). Survey concentrated on watercourses and on adjacent areas of erosion. A total of eighteen artefact scatters and isolated finds were recorded. Artefacts generally comprised of silcrete and chert (mudstone) flakes, cores and were associated with the 'A Horizon' soil layer. Two sites were identified along the length of Rix's Creek, while the others were identified along tributaries and some on upper slopes.
- **Brayshaw 1983:** This archaeological salvage involved the collection of artefacts from four sites (37-6-0237, 37-6-0239, 37-6-0241 and 37-6-0245) and recording artefacts at three others (AHIMS sites, 37-6-0238, 37-6-0240, 37-6-0242) (Brayshaw 1983). Site 3 (37-6-0237) recorded 98 artefacts although only 42 were noted during the previous survey in 1982. Site 5 (37-3-0239) recovered 36 artefacts, Site 7 (37-6-0241) recorded

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117 artefacts, and site 11 (37-6-0242) recorded 38 artefacts although 21 were recorded in the initial 1982 survey. Mudstone was the dominant material overall, followed by silcrete. While flake shape and dimensions varied, most were 1–3 centimetres (cm) in length. Modified artefacts were rare, accounting for only 2.7% of the total. Of the modified artefacts identified, backed implements were a notable feature, including bondi points and geometric microliths.

None of the salvage sites were in the new disturbance area but were mostly located to the east of the New England Highway.

- **AECOM 2014:** AECOM undertook an Aboriginal archaeological & cultural heritage impact assessment for the Rix's Creek Continuation of Mining Project in 2014 (AECOM 2014b). Archaeological survey was undertaken between 27 May and 29 May 2014 by a combined field team of AECOM archaeologists and rostered Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) field representatives. The survey methodology involved walking a series of linear transects, spaced at 100 metre (m) intervals with individual transect widths dependent on the number of RAPs present each day, as well as localised topographic conditions. A total of 22 new sites were identified during survey, consisting of 15 artefact scatters and seven isolated artefacts. In addition, the six previously recorded sites were subject to updated recordings. An assessment of the scientific significance of newly and previously recorded Aboriginal sites was undertaken, and moderate scientific significance was attributed to six sites and low scientific significance to 22 sites on the basis of their research potential, rarity and representativeness.

**1.2.1 Known Aboriginal sites remaining in place**

16 sites are included in the salvage program. These sites consist of artefact scatters (n=11) and isolated finds (n=5). Artefact numbers range from 1 to 146; although 14 sites (or 87.5 per cent) have less than 10 artefacts. Most of the artefacts recorded at the site with the highest artefact concentration (37-6-0235) are located outside of the new disturbance area.

Table 1-1 provides site details and Figure 1-1 shows the location of all sites included in the salvage program that currently remain *in situ* within the landscape.

**Table 1-1. Extant sites within the new disturbance area.**

AHIMS ID	Site name	GDA Zone 56 East	GDA Zone 56 North	Artefact numbers	Site type
37-6-0235	Rixs Creek;	322294	6401251	146*	Artefact scatter
37-6-0236	Rixs Creek 2	322441	6401328	6*	Artefact scatter
37-6-0250	Rixs Creek 16	322899	6400971	2*	Artefact scatter
37-6-3839	Rixs Creek Artefact Scatter 3	322762	6401386	4	Artefact scatter
37-6-3840	Rixs Creek Artefact Scatter 4	322822	6401254	3	Artefact scatter
37-6-3841	Rixs Creek Artefact Scatter 5	322668	6401355	8	Artefact scatter
37-6-3844	Rixs Creek Artefact Scatter 8	322053	6400676	3	Artefact scatter
37-6-3845	Rixs Creek Artefact Scatter 9	322183	6400600	7	Artefact scatter
37-6-3846	Rixs Creek Artefact Scatter 10	322240	6400462	4	Artefact scatter
37-6-3850	Rixs Creek Artefact Scatter 14	324710	6400357	4	Artefact scatter

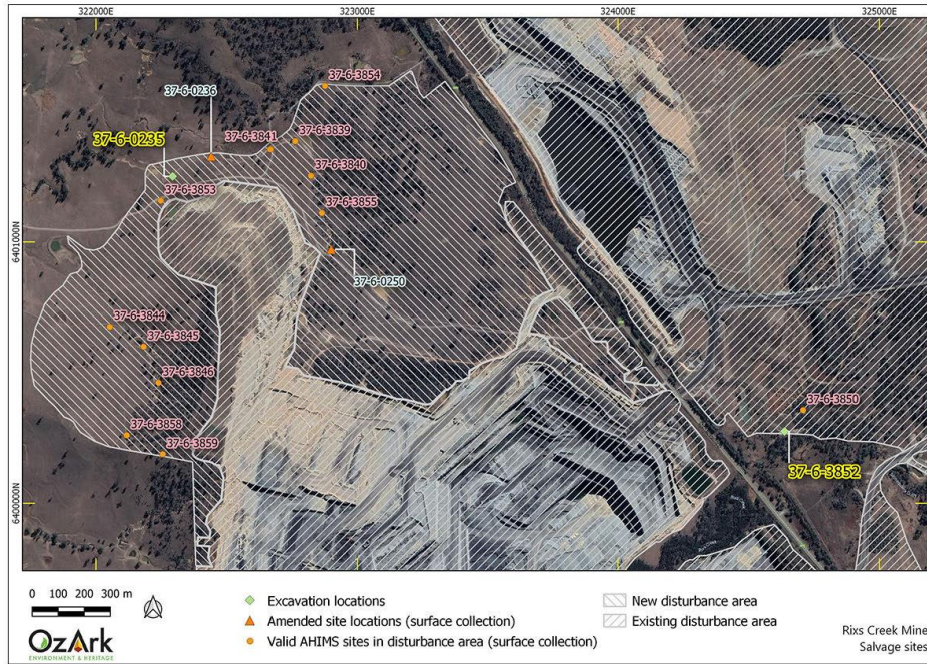
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AHIMS ID	Site name	GDA Zone 56 East	GDA Zone 56 North	Artefact numbers	Site type
37-6-3852	Rixs Creek Artefact Scatter 16	324639	6400276	66	Artefact scatter
37-6-3853	Rixs Creek Isolated Artefact 1	322249	6401158	1	Isolated find
37-6-3854	Rixs Creek Isolated Artefact 2	322876	6401598	1	Isolated find
37-6-3855	Rixs Creek Isolated Artefact 3	322864	6401111	1	Isolated find
37-6-3858	Rixs Creek Isolated Artefact 6	322118	6400261	1	Isolated find
37-6-3859	Rixs Creek Isolated Artefact 7	322256	6400188	1	Isolated find

\* Based on the numbers of artefacts observed by AECOM during their 2014 investigation.

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Figure 1-1. Aerial showing the location of all extant sites that are included in the salvage program.



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## 2 MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PLAN

### 2.1 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE IMPACTS

Aboriginal site investigations undertaken to date confirm that Aboriginal stone artefacts additional to those originally recorded may continue to be found in low numbers across the landscape as exposure conditions change. These findings confirm that Aboriginal stone artefacts are broadly distributed within the soil throughout the new disturbance area and that vegetation cover and soil exposure conditions can change to reveal previously obscured artefacts. Such exposed artefacts are referred to as 'sites' which means the site where Aboriginal objects may be observed in the present. Similarly changing environmental conditions can obscure previously visible Aboriginal objects. The phenomenon of previously recorded 'sites' not being discoverable at a later time is also common.

The management strategy addresses the recorded sites of Aboriginal objects as well as the inferred broad distributions of Aboriginal stone artefacts reflecting past Aboriginal activity in all parts of the landscape. Because Aboriginal objects occur within the topsoil in parts of the new disturbance area, impacts to undiscovered Aboriginal objects may occur. The management strategy provided here is proposed as mitigation of impacts to those Aboriginal objects that have been previously recorded. Aboriginal objects which may occur unrecorded within the topsoil will be dealt with as unexpected finds and the protocol for this is provided elsewhere in this ACHMP.

### 2.2 GROUP 1: SURFACE ARTEFACT COLLECTION

This category includes sites where surface artefacts are identified but where subsurface archaeological deposits were considered by AECOM 2014b as being unlikely.

There are 14 Group 1 sites as shown in Table 2-1.

**Table 2-1. Sites to be salvaged by a collection of surface artefacts (Group 1).**

AHIMS ID	Site name	GDA Zone 56 East	GDA Zone 56 North	Artefact numbers	Site type
37-6-0236	Rixs Creek 2	322441	6401328	6*	Artefact scatter
37-6-0250	Rixs Creek 16	322899	6400971	2*	Artefact scatter
37-6-3839	Rixs Creek Artefact Scatter 3	322762	6401386	4	Artefact scatter
37-6-3840	Rixs Creek Artefact Scatter 4	322822	6401254	3	Artefact scatter
37-6-3841	Rixs Creek Artefact Scatter 5	322668	6401355	8	Artefact scatter
37-6-3844	Rixs Creek Artefact Scatter 8	322053	6400676	3	Artefact scatter
37-6-3845	Rixs Creek Artefact Scatter 9	322183	6400600	7	Artefact scatter
37-6-3846	Rixs Creek Artefact Scatter 10	322240	6400462	4	Artefact scatter
37-6-3850	Rixs Creek Artefact Scatter 14	324710	6400357	4	Artefact scatter
37-6-3853	Rixs Creek Isolated Artefact 1	322249	6401158	1	Isolated find
37-6-3854	Rixs Creek Isolated Artefact 2	322876	6401598	1	Isolated find
37-6-3855	Rixs Creek Isolated Artefact 3	322864	6401111	1	Isolated find

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AHIMS ID	Site name	GDA Zone 56 East	GDA Zone 56 North	Artefact numbers	Site type
37-6-3858	Rixs Creek Isolated Artefact 6	322118	6400261	1	Isolated find
37-6-3859	Rixs Creek Isolated Artefact 7	322256	6400188	1	Isolated find

\* Based on the numbers of artefacts observed by AECOM during their 2014 investigation.

The salvage of Group 1 sites will be conducted within the following framework.

- **Research aim:** Is there any variation, on a macro level, in the distribution of certain artefact attributes such as raw material type and artefact type within the new disturbance area?
- **Action:** To conduct an analysis of the raw materials and basic artefact features to determine whether there is site to site variation within the new disturbance area, particularly at sites located away from water.
- **Aim:** Archaeological data obtained will allow a local level analysis of distribution patterns within the new disturbance area.
- **Research Design:** All visible artefacts would be flagged in the field. On hand-held GIS units, the location, artefact class and artefact type will be catalogued in the field. A representative sample of artefacts and views of site and *in situ* artefacts will be photographed. When recorded, all artefacts from the surface of the site will be collected.

Stone artefact sites managed under the Group 1 methodology will contribute to the research aim in that the sites will have surface artefacts mapped, catalogued, selectively photographed, collected and moved to a keeping place.

These investigations will include the following methodology:

- All visible artefacts at a site should be flagged in the field
- The site should be photographed after flagging and before recording
- All artefacts should have the following artefact information recorded:
  - Location
  - Artefact class
  - Artefact type
  - Size
  - Reduction level
  - Raw Material
  - Notes.
- A selection of indicative and / or unusual artefacts from each site will be photographed
- A sketch plan of the site will be completed should this help explain artefact distribution

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- Once all recording is complete, the artefacts will be collected with artefacts from each site being kept separate
- Should the collection team encounter a human burial, all work should cease in the area and advice from authorities and RAPs (should the remains be Aboriginal) sought (see Section 5.5)
- The recording of the artefacts recovered will largely be completed in the field and this data would be incorporated into a report
- Analysis will attempt to answer the research aim which is to record a statistically valid artefact assemblage from across the new disturbance area to better understand inter-site variations
- The supervising archaeologist would be responsible for submitting an Aboriginal site Impact Recording Form (ASIRF) to the AHIMS register to update the register with the results of the salvage works.

In the cases where sites may partially overlap with the new disturbance area, surface collection will be confined to the new disturbance area with a 5 m buffer.

### 2.3 GROUP 2: SALVAGE EXCAVATION

In cases where a site has been assessed in AECOM 2104b as containing subsurface deposits at risk of destruction, Group 2 management will be applied to the site. Group 2 sites are sites that display a higher artefact density when compared to neighbouring sites.

There are two Group 2 sites as shown in Table 2-2.

**Table 2-2. Sites to be salvaged by archaeological excavation (Group 2).**

AHIMS ID	Site name	GDA Zone 56 East	GDA Zone 56 North	Artefact numbers	Site type
37-6-0235	Rixs Creek;	322294	6401251	146*	Artefact scatter
37-6-3852	Rixs Creek Artefact Scatter 16	324639	6400276	66	Artefact scatter

\* Based on the numbers of artefacts observed by AECOM during their 2014 investigation.

#### 2.3.1 Background

Two sites in the salvage program have been identified by AECOM 2014b as requiring subsurface investigations. Both sites are associated with modified landforms, particularly 37-6-3852. Background information on each site is provided below.

##### 2.3.1.1 Site 37-6-0235

37-6-0235 was recorded by Helen Brayshaw in 1982 and described as “*along the eroded banks of a gully near its junction with a larger water course up to 200 artefacts occur... most of the site is outside the lease boundary*” (Brayshaw 1982a: 3). 18 artefacts were identified during the 2014 AECOM inspection of the site (AECOM 2014a: 3), and later in 2014, 146 artefacts were recorded

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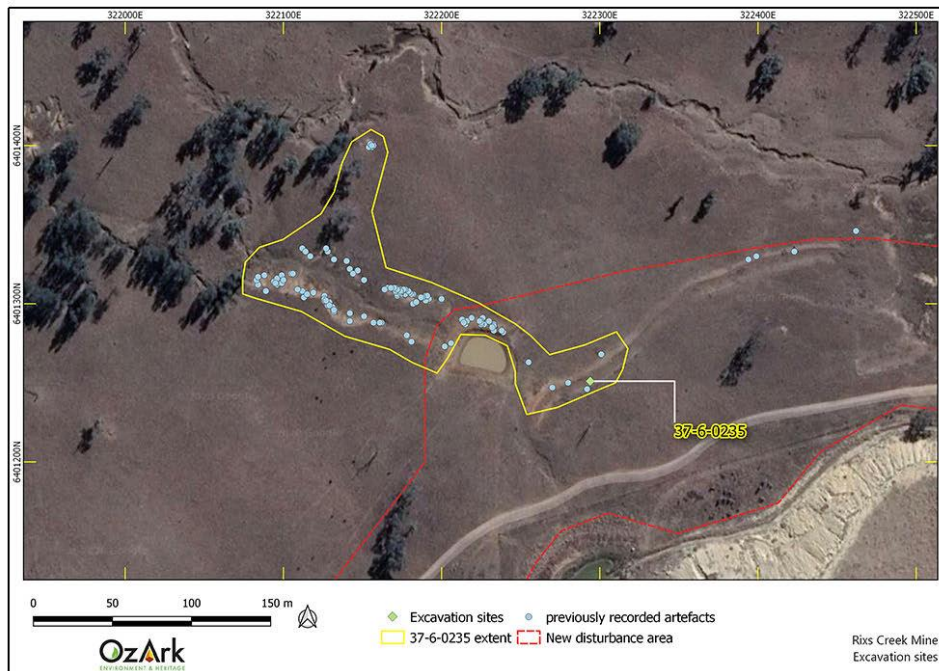
at the site by AECOM during their investigation of the Rix's Creek Continuation of Mining Project (AECOM 2014b).

Based on aerial imagery the site has been recorded on either side of a drainage channel that has been very eroded in the past, around a farm dam and around a contour bank that has been constructed to slow water into the nearby ephemeral drainage line. From an examination of the distribution of artefacts recorded by AECOM 2014b, it would appear that artefacts are in a secondary context and that they have been displaced from their primary depositional context.

The majority of the site, including the banks of the ephemeral drainage, are outside of the new disturbance area (Figure 2-1).

From previous investigations in the area it is suspected that the artefacts are not being eroded from the immediate landforms but have accumulated in what is a low point in the local topography (Figure 2-2). While the nature of the landforms adjacent to the drainage line will not be investigated as they are outside the new disturbance area, landforms within the new disturbance area will be investigated to determine if subsurface deposits exist in these areas.

Figure 2-1. Artefact distribution at site 37-6-0235.



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Figure 2-2. View of 37-6-0235 in 2014 (AECOM 2014b: 49).



**2.3.1.2 Site 37-6-3852**

37-6-3852 was recorded by AECOM in 2014 (2014b). The site consists of 66 artefacts including flake shatter, flakes, cores and angular shatter of silcrete, quartz and silicified tuff raw materials. The area has been subject to high levels of disturbance, including earthworks for the formation of contour banks and a dam. High levels of erosion were also noted in the area. Ground surface visibility in the area was very good in 2014 (90%).

AECOM 2014b: 83 state that “this artefact scatter site has the potential to contain intact deposits relating to habitation periods at the site across part of the site extents. A total of 66 artefacts were identified at this site” and although “this site has been subject to vegetation clearance, earthworks and erosion, there is the potential for artefact bearing deposits, but these are likely to be disturbed.”

From an examination of the distribution of artefacts recorded by AECOM 2014b, it would appear that artefacts are in a secondary context and that they have been displaced from their primary depositional context.

The majority of the site is within the existing permitted mining area (Figure 2-3); although a portion is located outside of the existing permitted mining area.

From previous investigations in the area it is suspected that the artefacts are not being eroded from the immediate landforms but have accumulated in what is a low point in the local topography (Figure 2-4). Nevertheless, landforms within the existing permitted mining area will be investigated to determine if subsurface deposits exist in these areas.

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Figure 2-3. Artefact distribution at site 37-6-3852.

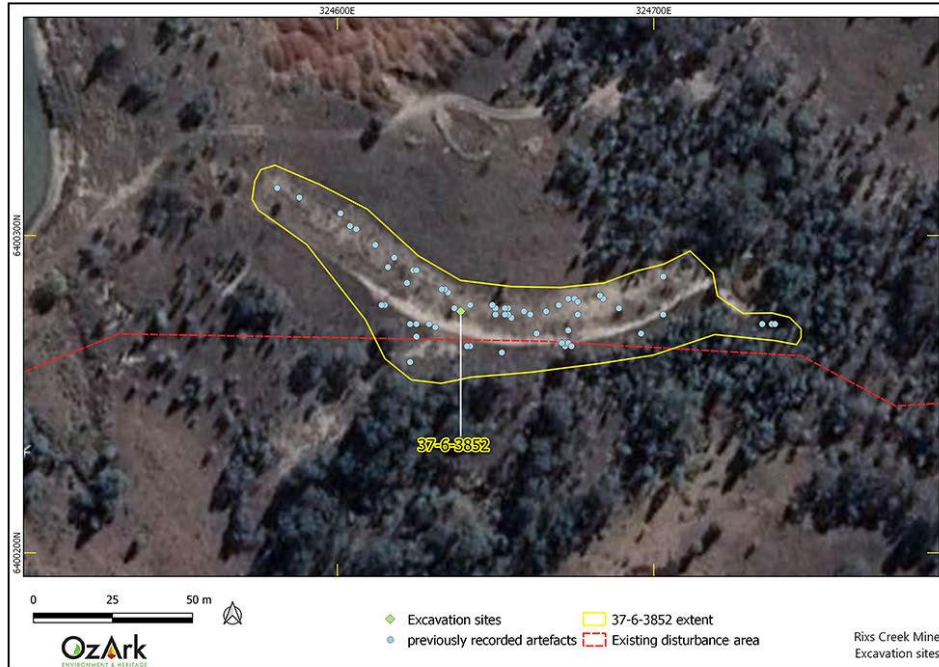


Figure 2-4. View of 37-6-3852 in 2014 (AECOM 2014b: 65).



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### 2.3.2 Group 2 Methodology

At both locations, a collection of surface artefacts as set out in **Section 2.2** will be first completed. This will be followed by salvage excavation that will be undertaken by manual means.

The following research aim and design will govern the manual excavation at these locations:

- **Research Aim:** Are there either subsurface artefacts or intact archaeological deposits at the location?
- **Action:** To conduct targeted, limited archaeological excavations at the site.
- **Research Design:** Up to twenty 0.5 m by 0.5 m excavation squares will be excavated at each location. The excavation squares will be spaced 5 m apart in two transects of 45 m (10 excavation squares per transect) to gain a meaningful sample from each area. These squares, in 0.5 m by 0.5 m increments, could be expanded if finds or deposits indicate that it would be advantageous. Spits at each area would start in 5 cm increments; although 10 cm increments could be used once it is established it is archaeologically prudent to do so. All deposits will be dry sieved at location. Should the excavations encounter a human burial, all work will cease in the area and advice from authorities and RAPs (should the remains be Aboriginal) sought (see Section 5.5). All excavated material (stone tools, bone, shell etc) will be fully analysed and a report of the findings prepared.

The recommended locations of the excavation transects at 37-6-0235 and 37-6-3852 are shown on **Figure 2-5** and **Figure 2-6**.

Transect locations have been chosen to be:

- Close to the locations of artefacts recorded by AECOM 2014b
- Outside of any obviously modified landforms
- Within the new disturbance area and existing permitted mining area.

The methodology for the salvage by manual excavation at both sites is as follows:

#### **Standard excavations (both sites)**

- All surface artefacts will be collected and moved to a place of safe-keeping under the methodology set out in **Section 2.2**. This will ensure that the artefacts are not harmed during the following excavation process
- Locations of the initial excavation transects are provided in **Figure 2-5** and **Figure 2-6**
- A minimum of twenty 0.5 m x 0.5 m excavation squares (five square metres) will be excavated to culturally sterile soil levels at each investigation area. Should basal clays be too deep to be reasonably reached by manual excavation, the decision as to whether sufficient excavation has occurred will rest with the Excavation Director
- The 20 excavation squares will be spaced at 5 m apart. Thus two 45 m transects will be investigated with each transect containing 10 excavation squares

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- Spits at each area would start in 5 cm increments although 10 cm increments could be used once it is established it is archaeologically prudent to do so
- All deposits would be dry sieved at location
- All recording will be done in the field in standard context sheets and the archaeologist will ensure that all necessary photographs, section drawings and soil analysis shall take place
- A maximum area of five square metres shall be excavated at each site unless deposits and finds warranted a further expansion (see below).

**Expanded excavations (as required)**

- The decision to expand from the initial five square metres shall be determined by the results of the twenty 0.5 m by 0.5 m squares and would be done in consultation between the archaeologists and RAPs present. The final decision on whether expansion is desirable will rest with the Excavation Director
- The grounds for expansion will include:
  - The complete excavation of a feature (such as a hearth) that may have been intersected by an excavation square; and
  - The complete excavation of a concentration of artefacts such as a knapping floor that may have been intersected by an excavation square.
- Any expansion beyond the five square metres will include areas totalling no more than 40% of the original area (i.e. an additional eight 0.5 m x 0.5 m squares will be permissible).

**High value deposits (as required)**

- In what is assessed as an unlikely event, should excavations encounter high value archaeological deposits, it should be possible to even further expand the archaeological salvage at that location. Deposits or features that would characterise high value deposits include:
  - Undisturbed deposits showing discernible archaeological stratigraphy
  - Any exceptional finds (unusual materials, rare preservation, rare artefact type) believed to have archaeological context
  - A high density of artefacts (more than 60 per square metre with a greater dimension than 1.5 cm) in undisturbed contexts.

**Human remains (as required)**

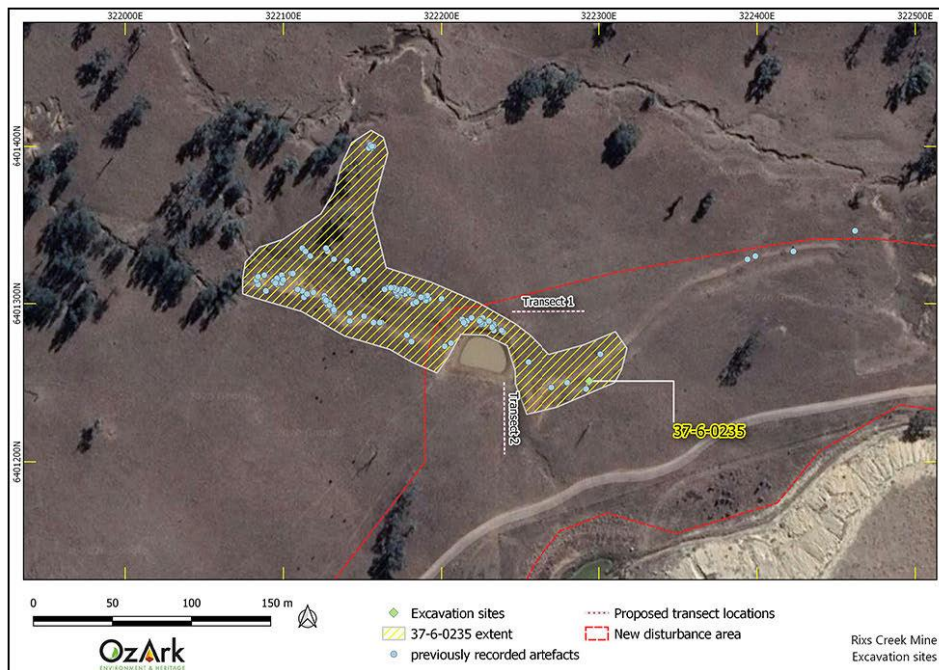
- Should the excavations encounter a human burial, all work should cease in the area and advice from authorities and RAPs (should the remains be Aboriginal) sought (Section 5.5).

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**Post excavation**

- All excavated material (stone tools, bone, shell etc) will be fully analysed and a report of the findings prepared
- Analysis will attempt to answer the research aim which is to record a statistically valid artefact assemblage from the site to better understand intra-site variations
- The supervising archaeologist would be responsible for submitting an ASIRF to the AHIMS register to update the register with the results of the salvage works.

**Figure 2-5. Recommended transect location at 37-6-0235.**



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Figure 2-6. Recommended transect location at 37-6-3852.



## 2.4 GEOMORPHOLOGICAL STUDY

AECOM 2014b: 91 recommends:

*Detailed geomorphological assessments of these sites should also be undertaken for the purposes of characterising and describing exposed soils and profiles, elucidating localised landform histories and defining, where appropriate, the extent and location of ground disturbance. Assessments should be carried out by a qualified geomorphologist.*

Based on the desktop assessment of the sites where excavation will take place (Section 2.3.1), it is assessed that each site consists of artefacts in a secondary context that have accumulated at a low point in the topography. As such, neither location, based on our current understanding, represents an *in situ* site.

As the sites are unlikely to have a significant subsurface manifestation, there is little knowledge to be gained from undertaking a geomorphological study at this stage.

However, should the excavations set out in Section 2.3 indicate that the sites contain a significant subsurface manifestation, or that applicable soil profiles, such as buried A Horizon layers, are present, then a geomorphological study will be initiated.

Any such assessment will be carried out by a qualified geomorphologist.

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Document Title:	<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan – RCS</b>		Document Owner:	<b>Chris Knight</b>	
Prepared By:	Ben Churcher (OzArk) Kirstin Blaikie (HB)	Print Date:	3-Jul-20	Version No:	1.0
Reviewed By:	Dianne Munro (HB)			Issue Date:	03/07/2020
Approved By:	Chris Knight	Review Frequency:	<b>36 MONTHS</b>	Page No:	96 of 96